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CONTADORA REPORTEDLY TO ASK U.S. TO LIFT EMBARGO

PY100040 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 May 85

[Report from Bogota by unidentified reporter of the Colombian Radio Group]

[Text] The Contadora Group will ask the United States to lift the embargo imposed on Nicaragua, according to a proposal Colombia will make at a meeting of foreign ministers to be held on 14 May in Panama. It will also ask the United States to resume the Manzanillo talks, which were interrupted before successful results had been achieved. It has been reported that Colombian President Belisario Betancur has talked by phone with Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi, with Panamanian President Ardito Barletta, and with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, with whom he discussed aspects related to this proposal, and all of them have supported the Colombian initiative as the only way to reach an understanding in the region. A Colombian Government palace spokesman has said that the trade embargo imposed on Nicaragua is also hurting other nations, (?will stimulate) communist expansion in the area, and can turn the conflict into an East-West confrontation.

In an impromptu press conference at the War College in Bogota, President Betancur said that important steps have been taken in recent hours to reach an understanding in the area and reiterated that the embargo on Nicaragua is an unnecessary, harmful measure. It has also been reported that a proposal drafted 2 years ago will be discussed again at the meeting of foreign ministers in Panama in order to find a solution to the Nicaraguan conflict. This proposal had been rejected by the United States. President Betancur has said that any interference in the region is deplorable, such as the trip made to the USSR by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the U.S. embargo which is an unfortunate mistake.

SEPULVEDA AMOR OPENS NINTH OPANAL SESSION

FL081351 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0035 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 8 May (NOTIMEX) -- Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, opening the ninth session of the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America (Opanal), said: The crisis of the developing nations has contributed to the arms race. The Mexican secretary stated that the current economic crisis of the developing nations is related to death and destruction, causing high fiscal deficits and interests rates. He added that the needs of our people paradoxically subsidize the irrational waste of the arms race. He pointed out that these are decisive times and reiterated the demands of the Latin American countries to find a solution to the problems through dialogue and negotiations. He added that the spirit of war is looming over Latin America and the economic crisis seems to cancel the hopes of peace. Sepulveda Amor said that halting nuclear escalation is the obligation of all peoples without exception, but the great powers that have nuclear arms must without doubt bear major responsibility. Regarding the arms race, the Mexican secretary discussed the possibility of examining the limitation of conventional arms in Latin America.

Opanal President Jose Ricardo Martinez Cobos indicated that now that man has turned to the arms race, he faces the greatest challenge of history because of the renewed possibility of nuclear war in and from space. He concluded that Latin America should not lag in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, referring to advances in the fields of medicine, plague eradication, and increased agricultural production. Representatives of 23 member countries are participating in the Opanal meeting. Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary Victor Flores Olea has been designated president of Opanal for the current term.

GOVERNMENT SCORES REPRESSION IN S. AFRICA

PY092157 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1536 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 May (TELAM) -- In a communique, the Argentine Foreign Ministry today expressed the government's concern for the repression of the black population of South Africa and the escalation of violence that has taken place recently in that country. The text of the communique is as follows:

"The people and Government of the Republic of Argentina have observed with concern the recent escalation of violence that has taken place in the Republic of South Africa. The repression to which the South African black population has been subjected for having staged popular demonstrations against the apartheid regime should be condemned by all those who treasure freedom and justice. It can also be observed that steps have been taken to modify discriminatory laws on civil matters. While these measures are positive, they will not serve the purpose for which they are intended if full political rights are not granted to the immense majority of the South African black population."

DEPUTY ON NATION'S MEDIATING ROLE IN AREA CONFLICT

PY092247 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0026 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 May (TELAM) -- Radical Civic Union [UCR] Deputy Federico Storani today said that in case of an eventual failure of the Contadora Group negotiations, it will be up to Argentina to assume the responsibility of the mediation to achieve a political solution to bring peace to the disturbed Central American region. Storani, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, made this statement during a Chamber of Deputies session held tonight, during which a declaration was discussed repudiating the recent U.S. embargo against Nicaragua.

The declaration was approved with the support of the UCR bloc, two of the four Peronist blocs, the renewal bloc headed by Jose Manzano, and the unity bloc headed by Diego Ibanez. The Intransigent Party, the Christian Democracy, the Bloquista Party, and the Neuquen Popular Movement also voted in favor of this declaration. When he spoke for this declaration, Storani reasserted Argentina's position regarding the Nicaraguan issue, which calls for support for the Contadora Group, but he noted that in case of an eventual failure of these negotiations, initiatives should be undertaken to promote Argentina's mediation in the Central American issue.

INVESTMENTS, EMPLOYEE CUTBACKS IN DRAFT BUDGET

PY072330 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 May 85 p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Lower house budget and treasury chairman Jesus Rodriguez said the executive branch would most likely tag a "complementary message" onto the 1985 draft budget before Congress to dovetail to International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements including cutbacks in investments and public administration employees, while at the same time dismissals are apparently in store for several directors of state companies and perhaps a few government secretaries.

Government sources indicated the administration had to cut off one percent (8,000 people) of those currently on public payrolls by July 1 -- whict it expected would be met by freezing vacancies produced by resignations, retirements or deaths -- and another two percent (16,000 more) by October 1 -- which it hoped would come about through voluntary retirement.

The budget amendments are in line with the IMF telling Argentina it must reduce its public deficit from 7.5 percent to 6.0 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) -- though current spending places the deficit more around 10 percent GDP. Though the announced 12 percent slash in public administration expenses is meant to lop off the 1.5 percent, sources estimated to reach 6.0 percent GDP in real terms, investment plans whould have to be strongly curtailed. Those cutbacks are expected to basically affect the binational Yacyreta project, the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), and the energy plan in general, except for natural gas development. For its part, however, Hydronor President Cesar Garcia Puente said the government-announced "war economy" would not affect Pledra del Aguila dam construction, because it has funding from the inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Garcia Puente said job priority would be given to workers coming off Alicura, Arroyito, and Route 237 construction sites. The heads of several state company directors and other board members seem to be on the line for not complying sufficiently with orders to cut back on expenses, and perhaps a secretary or two for good measure. Sources said that topic was high on the agenda of President Raul Alfonsin's talks yesterday to Olivos with close aides. How citizens could take part in the presidential appeal for economic austerity was also discussed. In a related development, word is Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and Treasury Secretary Norberto Bertaina are having problems seeing eye to eye on several issues. Bertaina, for instance, is reportedly opposed to the "forced savings" plan being applied to salaried workers with high incomes and has also twice refused to travel to the United States for talks with the IMF, saying they should come here.

Hiring Freeze Decreed

PY090223 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0015 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 May (NA) -- Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today reported that the government has issued several measures aimed at cutting down public expenditures through the reduction of 20,000 or 30,000 public servants during the remainder of the year by "normal attrition." The measure, which will be implemented by the Public Service Secretariat, include "a freeze on hiring for vacancies that open up before the end of the year," but "do not imply mass dismissals," according to a communique which the official spokesman delivered.

DEFENSE MINISTER HOSPITALIZED FOR ARTHRITIS

PY092045 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2029 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 May (DYN) -- The Defense Ministry confirmed this afternoon that Defense Minister Raul Borras was hospitalized last night at the German Hospital in this capital. A brief official statement says: "Defense Minister Raul Antonio Borras was hospitalized last night at the German Hospital in this capital for a checkup on the progress and treatment of his osteoarthritic condition."

CGT FACTION, 25 GROUP PROTEST ILO DELEGATION

PY072325 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 May 85 p 13

[Text] (NA) -- Committee of 25 and Negotiation and Labour Committee (CGyT) leaders lambasted the government yesterday for bypassing the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) in selecting labour representatives to the International Labour Organization (ILO) conference in Geneva next month, saying it was "reminiscent of military regime practices," but not surprising due to its "surrender to the International Monetary Fund." Spokesmen said, "We will go to the ILO conference whether or not part of the official delegation, but our attitude will be quite different depending on the case, which could prove damaging to the president's international image."

CABINET MINISTERS SUBMIT COLLECTIVE RESIGNATIONS

Interior Minister Resigns

PY091800 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 May 85

[Excerpts] Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has resigned. Interior Ministry Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez said in reporting this to the press that the letter of resignation is now in the hands of President Hernan Siles Zuazo for his consideration. Nine cabinet members are now meeting at the Foreign Ministry where they are studying the possibility of resigning collectively, according to a statement made to Radio Panamericana by Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste. The ministers are also studying the current political situation in the country.

Ministers To Seek Office

PY100105 Paris AFP in Spanish 0037 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] La Paz, 9 May (AFP) -- President Hernan Siles Zuazo's cabinet today tendered its collective resignation after a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry, according to Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena who is among those who have tendered their resignations. Rueda explained that several ministers plan to run as congressional candidates in the elections to be held on 14 July, which means that they must resign from their public offices 60 days before the elections. He added that personally, he wants to run as a candidate for his party, the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), although he will wait for the instructions of the chief executive and top leader of the MNRI, Hernan Siles Zuazo.

The chief executive stayed in his office at Government House until late in the evening, holding talks directed at marshalling a new cabinet, and it is possible that the ruling party candidate for president, Roberto Jordan Pando, could suggest some names for the new cabinet. Government House sources have reported that the president will soon disclose the list of the new cabinet members who will accompany him until he turns over power on 6 August, which is also Independence Day.

U.S. EMBARGO SAID OBSTACLE TO AREA PEACE

PY091750 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0352 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (EFE) -- The Bolivian Government believes that the trade embargo that the U.S. Government has imposed on Nicaragua is an obstacle to the peaceful solution of the Central American crisis. An official document that was released tonight by the Foreign Ministry urges the United States and Nicaragua to hold a direct dialogue in which each party will have to make concessions without affecting their permanent interests. The Bolivian Government also declares itself a defender of the legal norms that rule the international community's relations, norms that do not admit the implementation of measures against a sovereign country that through its own will, has chosen its political and economic system of government. The U.S. decision is an obstacle to the efforts of the Contadora Group in seeking a solution to the Central American crisis, according to the Foreign Affairs communique of this Andean country. Hernan Siles Zuazo's government, in the name of continental peace, urges that the attitudes of violence be put to one side, and calls for dialogue, thus reiterating its support of the efforts of the Contadora Group.

GARCIA DISCUSSES IMPERIALISM, INTEGRATION

PA081551 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Apr 85 pp 1, 4 B

[Interview with President-elect Alan Garcia by German Santamaria, EL TIEMPO correspondent in Lima--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Santamaria] You have said that your government will be anti-imperialistic. Do you think that today's imperialism is the same which Haya de la Torre opposed 50 years ago?

[Garcia] It is radically different. That opposed by Haya and other leaders was an imperialism that exploited raw materials, that bought coffee, cocoa, minerals, oil, and so forth. After World War II, imperialism, headed by the United States' hegemony, became an industrial model of manufacturing categories and creating affiliates. Later came the transnational imperialism, the financial imperialism that recently became a dunning imperialism that strangles poor countries.

[Santamaria] Then to be anti-imperialistic is to not pay the external debt?

[Garcia] It is materially impossible for Peru to pay the external debt. This year alone over 100 percent [as published] of the exports went to pay the external debt, either bank payments or interest. This year we estimate exports in the amount of $3.1 billion, but our obligations for the debt this year are approximately $3.5 billion.

[Santamaria] You say that it is materially impossible to pay the external debt. Does that mean you are not going to pay?

[Garcia] Peru is not refusing nor will it refuse to pay, because it is an honest country; it knows it lives in this world. But it also knows that the world can change its rules, reach an agreement that would respect human rights. Human rights are not only the right to freedom and expression; human rights are also the right to freedom and life.

[Santamaria] But what are you going to propose specifically to the IMF and the creditor banks?

[Garcia] First there will be a dialogue with the governments who actually have the last word concerning world economic decisions. We are aware of the existence of the IMF, we know that some of its measures are economically realistic, but we also know that it is the Governments of the United States and West Germany who actually make the real decisions. They and the creditors will have to understand that the first responsibility of the Peruvian Government is to its people; that under circumstances of hunger and misery, which could lead to chaos, we need to reorganize our productive conditions by using resources presently designated to pay the external debt. Summarizing, we want to pay, but we want to discuss our position with our creditors instead of quietly accepting the IMF formulas. These may be acceptable in principle, and by fully employed economies, but in countries with a huge idle industrial capacity, with poor use of natural resources, and with hungry people, they are truly inhuman. [passage indistinct]

[Santamaria] Are you not afraid that your attitude, which you describe as anti-imperialistic, may provoke an international blockade against you?

[Garcia] We trust in the common sense of the Latin American peoples. We will maintain our policy of nonalignment clearly and firmly, based on an integrated condition. This could take time, it could be difficult, but it is the only possible way for Latin America to attain its political independence. I also trust in the common sense of the superpowers, which will understand our continent's need for independence.

[Santamaria] What will your policy be toward the United States?

[Garcia] It will be a positive one of openness, of permanent negotiations to bring down the protectionist barriers that are holding back our exports, and of doing things jointly to keep Latin America, so important even to the United States, from being gradually reduced to chaos and misery.

[Santamaria] There is no fear then that you are a "revolutionary"?

[Garcia] Actually, the revolutionary voice of Latin America is now the voice of integration. No Latin American country can overcome its difficulties alone. Neither Peru nor any other Latin American country could pay its external debt alone. I will be revolutionary in the measure that I will struggle for Latin American integration. For the Latin American voice to be heard the world over, it will have to speak as one.

[Santamaria] But since you are associated with the Socialist International, will they not think you will look more toward France and Germany than the United States?

[Garcia] Our American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] party had an old slogan, according to which nonalignment is the basic essence of anti-imperialism. At that time they said that neither Washington nor Moscow will save Peru, only the APRA.

[Santamaria] And now?

[Garcia] Neither Washington nor Moscow will save Peru, only the people.

[Santamaria] Then you still believe APRA will save Peru and all of America?

[Garcia] My slogan in this campaign was that as the APRA candidate, my commitment was to all Peruvians. As to America, as I have said, it will be saved only by integration, unity, and the search for a single voice. The harmonious, equal, and just development of the economic and human resources of Latin America depends on the capacity of our peoples to gradually concentrate their industrial and political development into a great integration. That is the only thing that will save us.

[Santamaria] One could say that your prize is a tiger. Peru seems to be in pieces. Like Colombia and many other Latin American countries, the situation seems to have no solution. Is this so?

[Garcia] I will reply with a very optimistic Colombian phrase: Yes, we can. We can in Colombia, Argentina, and in all of Latin America. However, if we fail to give a continental dimension to what seem to be national problems, we fail to understand the roots of Latin America's problems.

[Santamaria] Will the APRA be able to overcome its old dispute with the Peruvian military?

[Garcia] That dispute was the result of a historical misunderstanding and regrettable circumstances fomented by those who did not want to lose the privileges they enjoyed through injustices. The Peruvian Armed Forces are fully committed to the implementation of a nationalist and democratic project, on which we agree. Furthermore, they are zealous defenders of the Constitution.

[Santamaria] You remind me of Belisario Betancur, except you are much more radical. Will you govern in alliance with him?

[Garcia] I greatly admire Belisario, particularly his stance before the IMF. I hope to work in coordination with him, not only in aspects related to economic policy but also on other matters, such as the anti-drug struggle. In this respect I would like to stress that being an anti-imperialist also means fighting drug trafficking until Peru is no longer an exporter of this venom. We must eradicate this crime against humanity from Peru.

[Santamaria] In other words, you will not govern with Washington or Moscow, but you will govern with Belisario?

[Garcia] That is correct. I also have great respect for other very good Latin American friends.

[Santamaria] Do you want to be the Latin American Felipe Gonzalez?

[Garcia] I only want to be Alan Garcia. As Mitterrand wrote, the important thing is to be oneself, and the days to come will show who we are.

[Santamaria] What is your opinion of the word drug?

[Garcia] Curse.

[Santamaria] Democracy?

[Garcia] Blessing.

[Santamaria] Militarism?

[Garcia] Past.

[Santamaria] Imperialism?

[Garcia] Defense.

[Santamaria] Colombia?

[Garcia] Brotherhood.

[Santamaria] The United States?

[Garcia] A great country.

[Santamaria] The USSR?

[Garcia] Another great country.

[Santamaria] Would you say that if you fail Peru could fall toward either left or right extremes?

[Garcia] If I fail, which I doubt, violence and chaos would take over Peru. But I am with the people, and the people are not with either extreme.

MINISTER SAYS SOVIET FISHING BOATS MUST LEAVE

PY091614 Lima Radio Programas del Peru in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] The Soviet fishing boats will have to leave Peruvian waters because they are depleting our seas, Fishing Minister Ismael Benavides Ferreyros said upon returning from Washington and Bogota. Minister Ferreyros added that currently some 250 Soviet fishing boats are catching about 6 million tons of fish in Peruvian waters, mainly Caballa and (Hurey).

[Begin recording] [Benarides] The Peruvian seas are for the Peruvians, and the development of the fishing industry is our responsibility, so we must ensure that the 200-mile zone is exploited by our boats and not by foreign boats. Speaking of a de facto violation of sovereignty, there is [hesitates] the massive presence of a fleet that theoretically operates outside the 200 miles affecting the fishing resources within that zone. Fish do not recognize borders and swim inside and outside the 200-mile zone. The fish that come to spawn near our shores, once they have spawned, swim away and are caught by the Soviet boats. Thus, they do not return to spawn near our coastline. The effect on the fishing resources within our 200-mile zone is very serious, considering the volume at which they are being caught.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, do you believe the country has enough fishing boats to replace the Soviet ships which, in your view, must leave our coastal waters?

[Benarides] Definitely, but I believe that the process will take some time because our boats must be modernized. We are speaking of approximately 600 small fishing boats known as bolicheras and some 20 net-dragging boats that must be modernized. Our fishing hold and cold storage capacity is sufficient.

[Reporter] How much capital will it take to modernize them?

[Benarides] We are speaking of, say, $20 million to modernize our entire fleet. Of course, this modernization has been under way under the legal mechanisms that have been established in the past year.

[Reporter] How many Soviet net-dragging boats are operating in our costal waters?

[Benarides] Approximately 250.

[Reporter] What is their fishing capacity?

[Benarides] Well, we are speaking of some 5 to 6 million tons per year. Just to give you an idea, Peru's total fishing tonnage is 2.5 million for consumption, industrial processing, and the State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency. The Soviets are catching twice as much. [end recording]

CHAMBER CONDEMNS U.S. EMBARGO ON NICARAGUA

PY081537 Paris AFP in Spanish 1448 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Montevideo, 8 May (AFP) -- The Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies has condemned the U.S. Government's economic embargo against Nicaragua and stated that this measure violates international law because it affects that Central American country's autonomy and right to self-determination. The Chamber of Deputies reiterated its support for the principles and procedures advocated by the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela), which, it stated, respect the right to self-determination of the people of that region. In addition to the Chamber of Deputies, the Uruguayan Government, Senate, and leftist political parties gathered under the Broad Front coalition have issued similar statements.

OFFICIAL TO PROBE TRADE POSSIBILITIES WITH PRC

PY081656 Paris AFP in Spanish 0401 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Roberto Asiain, secretary for international relations and a deputy for the ruling Colorado Party in Uruguay, today left for Beijing on a 2-week visit. Asiain will make good use of his trip to the PRC market within the boundaries of the aggressive trade policy envisaged by the new democratic Uruguayan administration. In this regard, Asiain has agreed to look into this matter during the trip and noted the potential importance of that market of more than 1 billion people. Asiain will gather information for a trade mission that will travel to the PRC in June.

SANCTIONS AGAINST LEFTIST GENERALS LIFTED

PY091319 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 85

[Excerpts] The Uruguayan Government tonight issued resolutions lifting the sanctions imposed on Generals Liber Seregni and Victor Licandro [leaders of the leftist Broad Front coalition]. The affected parties and the Military Retirement and Pension Fund have been notified of these resolutions. The Military Retirement and Pension Fund will have to reinstate the two generals on the payroll for retired officers.

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 8 May adds: "Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino has said that the lifting of the sanctions does not mean the reinstatement of the two officers to active duty because they had already voluntarily retired when they were discharged."]

TEACHERS STRIKE FOR WAGE HIKES, REINSTATEMENT

PY100157 Paris AFP in Spanish 1516 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Montevideo, 9 May (AFP) -- The three branches of the Uruguayan educational system today started a 24-hour strike to demand, among other things, salary increases, the defense of institutional autonomy, and the reinstatement of those fired during the previous military regime. This is the first stoppage carried out by the sector since the constitutional government assumed power on 1 March and it is part of a series of labor conflicts that are presently affecting government organizations. These labor conflicts are affecting a large part of the public administration and the private sector. In the last two months the Labor Ministry has mediated in over 100 labor conflicts.

FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER VAYRYNEN ENDS VISIT

Meets Commerce Secretary

FL081842 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1610 GMT 7 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 8 May (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Commerce Secretary Hector Hernandez and Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen have expressed the need to increase joint investments in Mexican projects in order to strengthen trade relations. In talks held yesterday as part of an official visit by the Finnish minister to Mexico, the two officials also called for increased trade. Finland now has a $9-million annual trade surplus with Mexico. Mexico now buys pulpwood and other forestry products, and light and heavy industrial goods, and has agreed to buy more Finnish technology.

The Finnish minister and some Finnish businessmen have proposed investment in forestry projects in areas where the Mexican Government has advanced plans in that field, such as Guerrero and the Pacific Coast.

Discusses Debt Problem

FL081640 Mexico Ctiy NOTIMEX in Spanish 0305 GMT 8 May 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 7 May (NOTIMEX) -- Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen has stated that the understanding and flexibility of the international community are necessary for the establishment of a new international economic order, which will permit developing countries to solve their foreign debt problems. At a press conference, he said the developing countries problems should be solved by possibilities and mechanisms offered by the UN.

He said that so far, the greatest difficulties for the establishment of a new international economic order are due to the serious disappointments of the so-called North-South dialogue because in past years, there were unrealistic hopes and the belief that the UN could solve the problem were overestimated. Nevertheless, he said the foreign debt problem is different for those who look at the developing countries' situation and the demands imposed by the IMF, which many consider to be correct. He added the countries that deal with the IMF should not expect radical or profound changes.

He said an example of the possibilities offered by the UN for reaching a solution to the foreign debt problem is the way it has dealt with the issue of hunger in Africa, whereby the international community has found ways to alleviate the problem.

Finally, Paavo Vayrynen announced that he had invited President Miguel de la Madrid and Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda to visit Finland soon.

The Finnish foreign minister's visit to Mexico ends tomorrow morning, when he departs for Venezuela, the second stop of his Latin American tour, which will end in Argentina.

Meets Foreign Secretary

FL092108 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2135 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 8 May (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Finland's foreign ministers expressed their concern over the obstacles to detente, the promotion of further arms sales, and worsening of the economic crisis which will kill any growth opportunities of developing countries. This was officially announced by the Foreign Secretariat which mentioned that the two parties favor new and important advances in the restructuring process of international economic relations to achieve coherent and practical results benefiting all countries.

During the talks held by the two foreign ministers, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Paavo Vayrynen, they both underscored their agreements on aspects of the two countries' foreign policies such as the struggle for peace, detente, and disarmament; their wish to achieve a more just international economic order; and the need to strengthen UN groups and other organs of the system. Finally, the two officials expressed their concern over the increase of international tension which has caused conflicts in different parts of the world and has promoted the arms race.

Departs for Miami

FL092002 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1710 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 9 May (NOTIMEX) -- After ending a 4-day official visit to this country, Finnish Foreign Minister Paava Vayrynen has said his government supports the Contadora Group since it is the only mechanism to achieve peace in Central America.

Interviewed shortly before departing for Miami, Florida, United States, the Finnish official reiterated his country's willingness to make coinvestments with Mexico in productive items as well as in infrastructure. He expressed the interest of a group of his country's businessmen in participating in some bilateral projects in forestry and mining exploitation, as well as construction of ports, shipyards, and conveyer-belt equipment.

Paavo Vayrynen hailed Mexico's economic policies because of measures taken to overcome the crisis, and reiterated that Finnish investments will also contribute to accomplish this.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT

Meeting With De la Madrid

FL091322 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1915 GMT 8 May 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 8 May (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid said today, as he welcomed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to the National Palace, that Mexicans want to live in a world without hostilities or exclusiveness.

De la Madrid reiterated that on matters dealing with the concept of the self-determination of peoples and the principle of nonintervention, Mexico wants to contribute systematically to world peace, negotiated solutions to conflicts, disarmament, overcoming international economic difficulties, and the establishment of fair and balanced economic relations among nations. He also said during the meeting with his Algerian counterpart that bilateral ties should be strengthened and they should make the most of these ties to coordinate their international positions. President Chadli Bendjedid stated that the two countries have always taken common positions on just struggles or in defense of causes seeking a fairer, more stable, more secure world.

Hosts Dinner

FL091508 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0425 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 8 May (NOTIMEX) -- The efforts of the Contadora Group to achieve peace in Central America constitute a valuable opportunity and basis for regional development, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid said here while speaking of Mexican participation in the Contadora peace process.

During the dinner he held tonight for President Miguel de la Madrid, the Algerian president said that, just as his country was doing in the African northwest, Mexico is working to improve the political climate of the region and strengthen good-neighborly relations.

This is the place for me to pay homage to Mexico for its role of patient leadership in the Contadora Group's peace effort, he said. In his message, he stressed Mexico's participation in the search for international peace and respect for law, especially now that the world is affected by tensions and a grave economic crisis.

President Chadli Bendjedid said that today more than ever Third World nations are faced with the degradation of the political climate and the erosion of international cooperation because they are at the center of prolonged situations of sharp conflict.

The economic situation of many countries has been greatly weakened by the foreign debt burden, which threatens the present, mortgages the future, and puts obstacles in the way of the search for a common destiny. Frequently, he added, Mexico and Algeria, faced with these conditions, have pooled their imagination to find a way to overcome international conflicts and find solutions to the great problems of our time.

He referred to the manner in which Mexico adheres to the doctrine of universal respect for the right of peoples to enjoy free self-determination and said that, together with Algeria, Mexico had participated in Third World meetings that contributed to achieving unity of thought, action, and planning that furthers the cooperative efforts of the peoples. Finally, the Algerian president reiterated the desire of the two governments to reinforce bilateral relations and move beyond the simple current of trade to include new areas of healthy, lasting cooperation.

GROUP THREATENS AMERICANS IN TIJUANA

PA092101 Paris AFP in Spanish 2016 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Tijuana, Mexico, 9 May (AFP) -- For the Mexican Dignity-1985, a group unknown thus far, has set a 72-hour deadline for Americans living in Tijuana to leave this border city or they will share the fate of a Mexican child who was wounded by a U.S. policeman last month. The threat is included in a leaflet that was disseminated yesterday which states: "The U.S. Government's aggressions and crimes against Mexico have been constant and treacherous since 1847. Now the Mexican people say: No more."

The note is referring to what happened to 12-year-old Humberto Carrillo who was shot by a U.S. border policeman on 18 April while in Mexican territory. In addition, the group that signed the note demands that the attacker be punished and that the Washington government publicly agree to compensate the victim's family.

Furthermore, Tijuana Mayor Rene Trevino stated that the document may be "U.S.-originated propaganda," and described it as the "product of a sick mind."

Xicotencatl Leyva, governor of northern Baja California, in which Tijuana is located, has ordered an investigation to find those responsible for the dissemination of the leaflet. The Tijuana Chamber of Commerce has also asked residents to maintain order and remain calm to avoid harming the local economy.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT OPPOSES U.S. EMBARGO ON NICARAGUA

PA092210 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2115 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has said that it opposes the embargo decreed by the United States against Nicaragua. The Costa Rican Government particularly considers that to participate in any type of coercive economic measure would represent an obstacle to the goals sought by the Contadora process. In addition, it stated that if Costa Rica were to act in that manner it would be violating its pledge as a member country of the CACM, the peace and friendship treaty signed with Nicaragua in 1948, and the protocol on the same treaty signed in 1955.

The Costa Rican Government feels that to collaborate with the economic measures adopted by the United States would violate the proclamation of neutrality, the cornerstone of its foreign policy. The communique issued by the Costa Rican Government a few minutes ago through the Foreign Ministry warns that it is deeply concerned about the increasing number of elements that are characteristic of the East-West confrontation and that particularly worsen the regional crisis. The economic measures adopted by the U.S. Government and Commander Daniel Ortega's trip to Moscow represent the most prominent signs of the increased tension in the region.

The Costa Rican Government admits that one of the objectives indicated by the U.S. Government for the adoption of said measures is to exert pressure so that an internal dialogue is held between the Nicaraguan Government and the political and military opposition. This is a goal that the current Costa Rican Government has advocated since the beginning of its term. The internal dialogue and national reconciliation in Nicaragua and El Salvador have received and will continue to receive the most generous collaboration from the Costa Rican Government.

The Costa Rican Government also agrees that if there is no dialogue between the parties in conflict and a national reconciliation is not attained, it is not possible to embark oneself on the road toward the creation of institutions that are [word indistinct] democratic. It is impossible to attain an internal peace and definitely eradicate the danger of a war between the Central American nations without these democratic institutions.

MONGE ON NEUTRALITY, ARRIVAL OF U.S. ADVISERS

PA091504 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge endorses the arrival of U.S. military advisers. According to him, we are not preparing to attack anyone but to defend ourselves in the event of terrorism, internal subversion, or external aggression.

According to the president, the preparation required by the civil police in the metropolitan areas is not the same as that required by the forces stationed along the border with Nicaragua, which any moment may be attacked from Nicaragua by the subversive groups fighting against the neighboring country's regime.

Neutrality does not mean defenselessness, Monge went on. Many people think that the proclamation of neutrality means defenselessness, so they have been expressing opposition to the arrival of military advisers, President Monge Alvarez added. He warned, however, that the country's integrity and security in the event of an armed aggression cannot be defended with firecrackers or toy guns.

He recalled that although a volunteer army was organized when the country was attacked from abroad in the past, we must now have a team of civil policemen to control the situation until a volunterr army can be formed.

Further on, the president said that the Costa Rican Government's position on Central America's problems has not changed. He added that there is no wish or intention to ask the Legislative Assembly to create an army. It is simply that steps are being taken in case any of the three emergencies mentioned above -- terrorism, internal subversion, or external aggression -- occur. This is why we believe that the civil police stationed at the border must receive very different training from that received by the other policemen who guard the country's other sectors.

We are experiencing difficult times and very special circumstances exist, the president continued. I definitely believe we are abiding by the constitutional norm that bans the creation of an army, but we are living in difficult years, in difficult times, and under very special circumstances so, to maintain our sovereignty, we must improve the public force's level of efficiency.

The president of the Republic insisted that the training of the public force is a means of protecting the country, even though there is no specific evidence of an imminent armed invasion of Costa Rica. However, he said, we must prepare for such an eventuality.

Although for his part the public security minister reported that 9 U.S. advisers had arrived in our country, a film taken at the airport in Liberia showed that the group was comprised of about 25 people. The advisers arrived yesterday morning in a U.S. Air Force Hercules plane that landed at the Llano Grande Airport. They were met by a number of public force officials, and ministry vehicles were used to take them and their equipment first to Liberia and from there to El Murcielago Base.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. ADVISERS, CONTADORA

PA100233 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0110 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] The purpose behind the presence of U.S. military advisers in Costa Rica is to train the Civil Guard so they are capable of fighting for several hours until we receive assistance from some friendly countries. This capacity to fight for several hours, said Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, is aimed at guaranteeing our security and the integrity of our national sovereignty in case of an armed aggression from abroad or subversion, as asserted by President Monge. The advisers have arrived to help Costa Rica prepare itself for three eventual dangers: terrorism, internal subversion, and external aggression. This does not contradict the constitutional principle of not having an army.

Within the Contadora Group's process we hope to create a system for three basic purposes: peace, democratization, and economic and social development, said Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. If Central America ever creates such a system, we will not need U.S. or Cuban advisers, a rash arms buildup, or sanctions. The challenge facing the Central American people is that this will not be created by the countries acting as mediators but by the Central American people themselves. Gutierrez said that the Contadora challenge means that the Central American people will create a system to attain those goals and nothing else will be necessary. We have been working in this regard, he said.

Regarding the pledges assumed by the Central American countries through the Contadora Group's efforts to guide the countries toward democratization processes and free elections, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said: We hope that Nicaragua will understand that when it signed the Document of Objectives it assumed a pledge for an internal dialogue and national reconciliation. These are not empty or wasted words.

In this regard, he stated that the Salvadoran Government presented a report on the continuation of an internal dialogue, adding that if the medicine is good for El Salvador it should also be good for Nicaragua because the internal dialogue and national reconciliation were proclaimed as an objective for Central America approximately 1 and 1/2 years ago. The need to attain a balanced military power, as stated by the Declaration of El Salvador, is a matter which deeply worries the Honduran Government because Nicaragua has an enormous military power, said Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. Regarding Costa Rica, that balance has no meaning at all because we do not have and do not plan to have an army since we will not tax the Costa Rican people to catch up with the Nicaraguan Government's weaponry level. Our position remains the same: We are not even interested in having an army. However, there are countries in which this plays an important role and Costa Rica has accepted the thesis that no Central American country should try to attain a military superiority over the others, Gutierrez added.

NICARAGUA'S URBINA LARA ARRIVES IN SAN JOSE

PA090321 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Jose Manuel Urbina Lara's first words upon arriving in Costa Rica were of gratitude for President Luis Alberto Monge and the Costa Rican people. Urbina Lara, who waited 2 months in Colombia to come to our country, arrived in San Jose aboard a Consolidated Airline Society of Medellin plane. As he left the plane, he said:

[Begin recording] I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to President Luis Alberto Monge, to the Costa Rican people, and to all those persons whom in one way or another supported me. [end recording]

Urbina Lara was very careful in his remarks. He expressed his desire to study and find a job in our country. He said that the Costa Rican authorities did not give him any specific instructions on how he must behave. I just want to be a worthy Nicaraguan citizen in exile here, he said. However, he did say that he will continue to support the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance while urging the Nicaraguan people to continue struggling.

[Begin recording] The Nicaraguan people must continue to struggle; they must not give up. Freedom can only be obtained by fighting and not just sitting back and doing nothing. [end recording]

Urbina Lara did say that the Costa Rican Government asked him not to cross the border into Nicaragua and not to join any armed group while in Costa Rica. It was the UN High Commissioner for Refugees who helped Urbina Lara come to Costa Rica. He said that he does not have any relatives in Costa Rica. Urbina Lara was met at Santa Maria International Airport by Costa Rican Foreign Ministry officials. Later, he was received by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez.

EL SALVADOR

FMLN-FDR CRITCIZES DUARTE REMARKS ON TALKS

PA092016 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 May 85

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command and the FDR Executive Committee in El Salvador on 9 May; read over the telephone by FMLN leader Jose Mario Lopez -- live or recorded]

[Text] Urgent official statement by the FMLN-FDR: The FDR and FMLN report to the Salvadoran people and the international community:

1. Duarte's irresponsible actions are disrupting the process of dialogue between the Slavadoran Government and our fronts. The most recent instance of this is the series of distorted statements he made in his 8 May press conference.

2. In view of these serious developments, within the next 48 hours the FDR-FMLN will hold emergency consultations and subsequently express stances to the San Salvador Archbishop's Office in its capacity as mediator in the dialogue.

3. The FDR-FMLN summons the members of the local and international press to a press conference on Monday, 13 May.

4. We urge the Salvadoran people to be alert to our reports. Let us intensify the struggle for just benefits and demand of the Duarte administration serious and responsible conduct in its dialogue with the FDR-FMLN.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH U.S.

PA081916 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 6 May 85 p 3

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa -- Upon his arrival from Washington on Saturday Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said that a greater awareness of our national dignity and respect for our integrity were demonstrated during the negotiations with the United States. The foreign secretary said that the struggle to get the United States to commit itself to defend Honduras in the event of a Nicaraguan attack is not over.

Meanwhile, the Honduran officials expressed his reservations regarding the economic embargo imposed against Nicaragua, although he said he supported "any measure that will lead to democratization in Central America."

The foreign secretary admitted that the government has committed itself to promote certain economic measures to achieve the disbursement of the $75 million that had been approved by the Agency for International Development. Paz Barnica explained that the round of negotiations that began in July 1984, when Honduras presented its first request, is not over and that the talks will continue in Tegucigalpa in the near future.

For the first time the foreign secretary discussed the Honduran demands in depth, but at a certain moment he seemed to realize what he was doing and refused to continue discussing the matter.

The Honduran official said that Honduras has presented some five or six demands, but he did not enumerate them. He did not mention the issue of the contras in Honduras. The first issue brought up by the foreign secretary was that "in the area of defense we said that Honduras would like the United States to sign a defense treaty with our country. The United States' answer was that they have no agreement of this kind with any American country." After the negotiations it was agreed that a declaration would be signed, probably during Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova's visit to Washington on 21 May. If President Suazo Cordova cannot go to Washington, the declaration could be signed by Honduran Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. According to the foreign secretary, a declaration is also binding based on the convention of the right of treaties signed in Vienna in 1969.

The Honduran official was reminded that Honduras is requesting signing of an overall defense agreement for Honduras, not only in the case of an attack from Nicaragua but also from El Salvador or any other country. "Those are the terms of the declaration that is being negotiated. I guess that if this is done based on the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) this would be the correct way," he added. Also, in the area of security, Honduras seeks "amendments and improvements to the 1954 military agreement, and the status of U.S. personnel in Honduras is being negotiated."

The foreign secretary did not confirm or deny reports that U.S. soldiers enjoy diplomatic status. However, he did say that there has been no control of U.S. personnel stationed in Honduras.

Immediately following this statement the foreign secretary added: "Therefore, I hope that it will not continue to be said that Suazo Cordova is responsible, because this situation has been out of control since 1954." He also added that "guidelines must be set down for the military maneuvers," and that at the moment no new joint exercises are planned. "However, if in the future new maneuvers are to be held, guidelines must be set down." The foreign secretary added that "guidelines must also be set down for the payment of damages and for the use of Honduran military installations."

TIEMPO asked the foreign secretary whether this negotiation means that Honduras has entered a process to regain its sovereignty. Paz Barnica's answer was: "I believe that what we have is a greater awareness of national dignity, respect for our own integrity, and our own Honduran awareness, without affecting the excellent relations with the United States." "I believe," he added, "that relations with the United States must be expanded, but based on mutual respect and cooperation with interdependency, and I think we are doing this correctly." "Five or six issues are being discussed in the area of security, and I do not wish to offer an opinion regarding this," he said.

The disbursement of the $75 million could be done during President Suazo Cordova's trip to Washington. However, Honduras would first have to accept certain conditions. Some of these conditions are: promoting legislative and administrative measures aimed at improving the Honduran economy; legislative measures such as the implementation of laws to stimulate local and foreign private investment; and administrative measures such as reducing spending in the public sector, abolishing some decentralized institutions, and transferring to the private sector all government enterprises handled through the National Corporation for Investment (Conadi).

In the area of economic aid,Honduras is requesting an increase in the additional aid granted to develop productive, economic, and social programs and to achieve a "structural readjustment of the economy," the foreign secretary added.

Paz Barnica continued, saying that some distinguished leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have promised that the Senate and the House will approve, without reservations, any aid for Honduras that President Ronald Reagan may request.

The foreign secretary did not wish to disclose the amount that Honduras is requesting in military and economic aid from the Reagan administration.

SANDINIST PEOPLE'S ARMY SAID TO BOMB ARENALES

PA080017 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1958 GMT 7 May 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 May (ACAN-EFE) -- According to reports from civilians that were revealed today in this capital, Sandinist artillery again bombed Honduran territory last Sunday. Colonel Cesar Elvir Sierra, public relations director of the Honduran Armed Forces, said yesterday: "We have reports from civilians that indicate there was artillery bombing in the vicinity of Arenales; we are investigating this case." The officer refused to officially confirm or deny the attack by the Sandinist artillery until investigations have been carried out.

Unofficial reports in this capital by Arenales residents, who arrived here fleeing from Arenales, state that approximately 340 grenades hit the community last Sunday and destroyed five homes, coffee crops, and some vegetable fields. The residents said that it all began with a fierce clash on the Nicaraguan side, in Jinotega Department, probably between the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]. It is believed that given the intensity of the clash, the casualty count will be high. However, the figures for either side are impossible to determine without an on-site inspection of the war zone.

According to the same sources, the grenades that fell on Honduran territory were reportedly hurled by Sandinist artillery forces to prevent FDN members from escaping. The Honduran towns of Las Vegas, Arenales, Tapalchi, El Mogote, Las Trojes, Cifuentes, Dificultades, and La Lodosa, all in eastern El Paraiso Department, were hit by more than 1,000 grenades of various calibers hurled by the EPS during the past 3 weeks. A significant sector of the rural area in this province has been abandoned by residents in view of Sandinist artillery attacks. Nicaraguan guerrilla forces are currently on a tactical retreat in view of a shortage of war materiel and an offensive by the Managua army.

MORE ON 'INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS;' FINAL MEETING SET

Suazo Criticized

PA090403 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 1 May 85 p 6

[Editorial: "The Institutional Crisis Continues Unresolved"]

[Text] President Roberto Suazo Cordova, supported by the military hierarchy, escaped the siege established by the worker and peasant movement by saying that he would respond by 30 April to their demands to resolve the institutional and political crisis in the country.

The worker and peasant movement, which today celebrates International Labor Day, was sure that the president would announce on this memorable date his decision to resolve the institutional and political crisis, which is a result of his confrontation with the legislative branch and his effort to impose candidates for public office on the Honduran people.

The workers and peasants certainly feel cheated by the president's behavior and that of the governing political party because they continue to manipulate this problem, which concerns the entire country.

From the institutional point of view, the essence of the clash between the executive branch and the National Congress is the restructuring of the Supreme Court and the release of lawyer Ramon Valladares Soto, president of the court. President Suazo Cordova, violating the Constitution, used the Armed Forces to prevent the new justices from taking office, and has in effect carried out a coup by not acknowledging the National Congress' sovereign power to name the justices of the Supreme Court, thereby dissolving the Honduran institutional system. As long as this problem is not resolved, the crisis will continue to deepen. Furthermore, a political solution is impossible while the situation is being studied by the National Congress, which has the authority to legislate on and establish electoral rules, and by the Supreme Court, which is linked to the formation of the National Electoral Tribunal.

Dr Suazo Cordova has left the issue "hanging," without giving the answer he is obliged to give due to national interest. He has not even mentioned the issue. When the worker and peasant representatives left the presidential house empty-handed and lacking any serious commitment from the president, they decided to negotiate with the National Electoral Tribunal [TNE].

President Suazo Cordova has in reality not committed himself to anything. The labor representatives say that the president stated that he would accept the TNE's decision. They took the initiative to invite political leaders to the talks at the TNE. In this manner, the president is moving away from his undeniable obligation to resolve the institutional crisis that he has created, and continues to exacerbate the crisis by not solving the problem at the Supreme Court or releasing the president of this organization.

As if this were not enough, President Suazo Cordova has withdrawn from the political conflict, also created by him, by sending it to a TNE that does not have the legal authority to mediate in this type of conflict. It is not authorized because it is absurd for the National Congress to be subjected to an arrangement on these grounds and to later legislate on a decision adopted by the tribunal. These are small battles. President Suazo Cordova has won another 24 hours to continue navigating in the crisis. However, the crisis continues, while the cancer of stubbornness cannot be removed from the mind and heart of the president who is currently winning time as a political juggler but losing the few points he had left as the leader of all Hondurans. Likewise, the labor leaders, just as the political leaders, have a common goal to reflect upon, and must straighten their paths to reach their goal of saving Honduras from a complete disaster.

The National Congress now has the opportunity to return to its former status, relying on the support of the entire nation and the majority of the political parties.

3. In accordance with the agreements made at that meeting, where the chief of the Armed Forces was also present, the presidency secretary notified the TNE president that on this occasion only the labor and business leaders would visit him, leaving the meeting with the authorities of the legally recognized parties for 30 April and the meeting with the representatives of the groups that are not recognized and the dissident sectors of the recognized parties for 1 May. A joint meeting would then be held on 2 May.

4. The purpose of the proposal to hold separate meetings with the different groups was to facilitate the work and to listen to each group in order to have a precise idea of each sector's view for the last meeting.

5. The representatives of the workers, the peasants, and the private sector were to attend all of the meetings with the TNE. They were the same individuals who participated in the meeting with the president of the Republic and the chief of the Armed Forces.

6. The president of the Republic has neither influenced nor does he want to influence the TNE's highly technical views. He only hopes that the promoters of the alternatives for holding primary elections in the political parties prior to 14 July, or jointly with the general elections on 24 November, have the necessary information to make the most sensible, democratic, legal, and generally acceptable decision.

Labor, Peasant Leaders Speak

PA041517 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 2 May 85 pp 4, 5

[Report by Roman Murillo Cantoral]

[Text] The country's main labor organizations marched peacefully along the streets of Tegucigalpa and Comayaguela, and at the end they held meetings in Morazan Square and Herrera Square. The outstanding feature of the worker-peasant march was a constant demand to the government to call the political parties to internal elections so that the people can freely nominate their presidential candidates. President Roberto Suazo Cordova was the target of the general complaint. Hundreds of posters, placards, slogans and speeches criticized the president's attitude of trying to deceive the labor leaders by refusing to hold the primary elections. Although not as enthusiastic as in previous years, the worker-peasant march presented a single front in its demand for internal elections and some of the said that if by Saturday they do not receive a satisfactory reply from the TNE, on Saturday a general strike will be called for Monday.

Oscar Escalante, a leader of the General Workers Confederation, CGT, told political leaders that if they do not live up to their responsibility to guide the destiny of the country, then "the workers and peasants will be forced to take a strong position on behalf of the people. On this 1 May we must meditate the problems facing the country because a division has been imposed by the medicore petty politicians, who have not been capable of setting aside their personal interests in order to attend to the country's problems," Escalante said. He added that the CGT is worried about the situation of the democratic opening "with top political leaders fighting over the government and the nomination, and this portends a dark future for our country." "If we want to consolidate democracy and promote political culture in our country, then the political parties must be democratic and allow their members to choose their candidates through direct and secret vote," Escalante said.

Lopez Reyes on Military's Role

PA040306 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 May 85 p 10

[Text] Armed Forces Chief General Walter Lopez Reyes has declined to comment on the result of a meeting held Tuesday between President Roberto Suazo Cordova and labor leaders, but he said that the Armed Forces are "helping to find alternative solutions" for the institutional and political crisis. After the protracted meeting of labor and peasant leaders, private enterprise representatives, and President Suazo, Lopez Reyes was interviewed at the Presidential Palace by a local radio station.

He said: "I would not like to advance any opinion," and added: "Let workers take the good news to the Honduran people. We are only helping to find some alternatives."

Regarding the announced workers' strike, Lopez Reyes said: "They never told us about it. Yes, definitely someone has misinterpreted the workers' opinions. They know that this is one of the weapons. A dialogue is definitely the most civilized solution possible." He also said: "Now understanding is to be expected from all involved parties. Hope for a solution must be kept alive."

Referring to the transfer of the problem to the National Electoral Tribunal, TNE, Lopez Reyes said: "We understand the TNE is the organ in charge of all this. It will have to consider the proposals to be presented by workers and peasants." He added: "I think a solution could begin like this. With the consent of the other political parties and the various trends the much-wanted solution can be found."

Asked whether the Armed Forces continue to support Suazo Cordova, he said: "This is one of the questions that has caused much controversy. I want to tell you and the Honduran people that all of us in this new stage deeply respect the president's stance and, above all, our Constitution, because the behavior of all officers depends on it."

Presidency Suggests TNE Meetings

PA031640 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 May 85

[Communique released by the Presidency's Information and Press Secretariat on 2 May in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] Forced by the erroneous information that was provided and the mistaken opinions expressed in connection with the dialogue between the president of the Republic and the leaders of the worker and peasant sectors, which presented a plan for primary elections in the political parties for public consideration, the Presidential Office's Press Secretariat wishes to make the following clarification:

1. The president of the Republic endorsed the proposal made by the labor leaders at all times and, in order for the two alternatives to be technically analyzed, he recommended a visit to the TNE.

2. As agreed at the meeting, the presidential secretary called on the TNE president to request a meeting of the labor and peasant leaders who, along with private sector leaders, would come to the headquarters of the nation's leading electoral body.

Victor Artiles, secretary general of the Confederation of Honduran Workers, CTH, accused the traditional political parties of plunging the country into the worse crisis Honduras had ever had. He added that with regard to the worker-peasant offer to mediate to solve the problem, "President Suazo has been evasive and has tried to delay a political solution, by proposing separate meetings with the political parties."

Artiles also accused TNE President Rene Corea Cortes of "not allowing the proper conditions for a patriotic dialogue and thus creating a climate of tension that put and end to the dialogue." Artiles said: President Suazo Cordova told us to deal with the TNE, so the workers and peasants have asked the TNE for a formal and responsible reply by Saturday, 3 May. Finally, he reiterated that the only possible solution to the crisis is to call the traditional political parties to elections. He stressed that the workers struggle has not ended and he also asked for the Honduran people's solidarity and suport.

After the two first speakers, a manifesto from the Honduran Peasant Federation was read announcing the creation of the National Council of Workers and Peasants of Honduras, which will take care of worker interests. The manifesto says that since the installation of the present administration, its officials "have established political sectarianism and divisionism among the masses and political and social organizations, taking advantage of the Honduran people's good faith." "The Honduran people, the classes that live on the fringe of society, particulary the peasants -- who are waging a daily struggle for their survival and that of their families because the agrarian reform process has stopped and they are now being used for political propaganda -- are paying the consequences of the situation," the manifesto says.

After asking President Suazo Cordova to order his ministers to stop dismissing public employees, the peasants are asking National Agrarian Institute Director Gustavo Alfaro to stop issuing eviction orders against the peasants.

The Peasant Federation manifesto ended by expressing support for the Armed Forces constitutional position and warning of "the threat of bloodshed made by some politicians in their meetings with the workers."

Marco Nieto Posadas, president of the Authentic Trade Union Federation of Honduras, FASH, criticized the economic policies the IMF, the World Bank, and the Agency for International Development are trying to impose on our country. "These institutions are trying by all means to devaluate our currency. For this reason, all the Latin American countries should form a bloc to facilitate the negotiations of our debt," Nieto Posadas said. After saying that the Honduras' main problem is the institutional crisis, which could continue for a long time, Nieto Posadas said that the only way to strengthen our new democracy is to allow free local elections. In conclusion, he said that all the workers should unite to fight for their rights, to prevent more taxes, and to make the Honduran who goes to the Presidential House rule by the people and for the people.

Antonio Julin Mendez, president of the Honduran Peasants National Association, ANACH, accused President Suazo Cordova of exercising a constitutional dictatorship "which is deeply eroding our democracy." "The local elections," he added, "will permit the installation of a government strong enough to deal with the serious problems that lie ahead of us, such as the money devaluation, unemployment, and the deterioration of the Honduran people's living standard." Mendez said that the workers and peasants are not going to permit us to continue along a dead-end street because "as usual, when social chaos appears in Honduras, the victims are going to be the peasants and workers because those that have ruled the country will have already left."

"We strongly criticized those who say that there is not enough time to call for elections or that there is not any money for it. Regarding the time problem, some possible solutions have been submitted and the president's special power should be used for this purpose and not for corrupting or subverting the people's will," Mendez said. Mendez, who is a deputy and a peasant leader, said that there is a consensus on intensifying the democratic process among the Armed Forces, the business sectors, the Catholic Church, the labor organizations, and the independent news media. In conclusion, he proposed a big social commitment with an economic and financial emergency plan, plans to create new jobs, and implementation of a dignified foreign policy and a national development policy that encourages the people's participation.

Peasant leader Efrain Diaz Galeas summarized the aspirations of the labor sectors that were present, indicating that if there is not a satisfactory answer to the crisis on Saturday, the workers will call a general strike for Monday. Diaz Galeas' statement received an ovation by those in the crowd, who immediately started to wave flags and placards, to confirm that they are determined to go to the end of the struggle on behalf of the primary elections. "We represent the majority of our society and therefore we have the right to play an active role in the country's political democratization to improve our living conditions," Diaz Galeas said. He added that the government should realistically deal with the needs of the people to reach a real coexistence among bosses and workers, and peasants and landowners.

The meeting at Morazan Square ended at noon and the workers and peasants leaders left to discuss the measures they will take in the case the government and the TNE give a negative reply to their demands for local elections.

Primary Elections Urged

PA041642 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 2 May 85 pp 9, 23

[Editorial: "Popular Mandate: Internal Elections"]

[Text] After listening to all the speakers at the workers rallies in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, it has been fully established that the great majority wants primary elections in the traditional political parties. Those opposed to this democratic practice are the minority sectors of the traditional officialdom -- those identified with the citizen that occupies the highest post of the nation.

We will skip discussion of whether there was interference by the executive branch in the decisions adopted by the TNE or whether there was a compromise between the representatives of the workers and peasants and Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova to impose a pattern of dialogue within the TNE by separating the groups until a general consensus was reached among the contesting groups. We are actually interested in the possibility of a prompt solution to this institutional crisis which has spread its negative influence throughout the nation, particularly to those sectors dedicated to producting goods and services. In that respect, at the meeting with the workers and peasants representatives the president considered two alternatives to solve the internal political conflict affecting the two largest political groups of the country. First, internal elections, if an agreement can be reached between the political leaders of all groups and the TNE on the most convenient date for such internal elections. Apparently, the official sector considers the date set by the workers and peasants, that is, 14 July, as untimely.

In this respect, there is a difference of criteria within the TNE. Its president, Rene Correa Cortes, declared that the TNE had decided "by the majority of its members that the internal elections cannot be held on 14 July," which clearly indicates that the decision of the tribunal, as reflected by a majority of its members, conforms to the officialist [oficialista] position of the traditional parties, which together with the representative of the Supreme Court constitute a majority in the TNE. Contrary to this forceful position of the TNE's officialist majority, Adan Palacios, secretary general of the tribunal, affirmed that "the internal elections to choose the candidates in the political parties can be held quite easily."

Now then, on the eve of International Labor Day, some leaders of the Liberal and National Parties, both of the official sector, publicly condemned the worker and peasant leaders with offenses and insults. They tried by every means to minimize the force they actually represent. It was nothing more than a provocation which merely radicalized the positions of the worker and peasant leaders in their public addresses in the capital and in San Pedro Sula. There has already been talk of a general strike, of a total work stoppage in Hondruas and, what is more important, it was firmly established that internal elections representa a unified position of principles of the labor and peasant movement with regard to solving the most dangerous political crisis ever experienced by our country.

We ask: Will the imposition of presidential candidates and designates, of deputy and municipal candidates, continue to be stubbornly maintained? Will the people's demands for primary elections go unheeded? Should the stubborn and antihistorical order to accept an unpopular candidate be imposed, there will be a popular protest, and those who made the impositions will be held responsible.

The second alternative, which seems to be acceptable to the citizen who is about to turn over the presidential chair to his successor, is not quite clear as it does not explain its true significance and objectives.

The president of the Republic says that should no agreement be reached on the date of the primary elections, and if they are not held due to lack of time -- thus, the efforts being made to waste time -- then it would be feasible for all presidential candidates of the Liberal and National Parties to run for their respective parties in the 24 November elections.

This is not a casual idea. It could be done, as long as the following points are observed: 1) if there is no candidate with the official label; 2) if the funds of the Central Executive Council, of the Rodista Liberal Movement and the contributions officially requested are distributed equally among all candidates of each of the political parties; and 3) if the political debt and what it represents in millions of lempiras, is distributed equally among all the candidates of the Liberal and National Parties, according to the results of the 1981 elections.

Should this be the idea of the president and his group, we welcome his proposal; because all Liberal and National candidates would compete on neutral ground, with equal opportunities to win the people's support. If the proposal was intended to preserve the "official" candidate of the Liberal Party, that is, lawyer Oscar Mejia Arellano, and the "official" candidate of the National Party -- both apparently united by the same process of creation and officialization -- leaving the rest of the candidates as "independents," the advantage for the candidates "blessed" by the same will, would be an imposition on the Honduran people and would give the contest a partial tone, which in no way would promote peace and harmony among all Hondurans.

The EL HERALDO editorial staff believes that the desirable and practical thing to do to eliminate the seven-headed monster, which Hercules killed, and which has us all involved in the difficult task of guiding the steps and decisions of the leaders of this country along the path of the Constitution and of respect for the Honduran people's will, will be to obey the decision of the majority of our people,who want internal elections in the traditional political parties, as the only way to solve our problems of political, economic, and social order; of our national identity; and of our citizen's pride.

Having established the above, we directly address the president of the Republic, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, to remind him that no Liberal president, throughout our history, has been able to impose presidential candidates. We respect the seriousness of the head of state and his good faith toward the country. Thus, we trust that he will not launch Honduras into the turmoil of street protests and national strikes and that he will leave the people free to choose the candidates for his position from his own party or the National Party in unquestionable clean and honest internal elections.

TNE, Labor Leaders Disagree

PA070254 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 May 85 p 10

[By Vilma Gloria Rosales]

[Excerpts] "It is not true that we have made a deal," said Andres Victor Artiles, secretary general of the Honduran Workers Confederation, after hearing about the accusations made yesterday against the worker-peasant movement by TNE President Rene Correa Cortes. According to Correa Cortes, when Minister Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta asked him to his office "to give him instructions," he told him that the workers had agreed on a procedure for holding their meetings. They agreed, according to the official sector of the TNE, that the first meeting would be held with the political parties legally recognized by the Tribunal, that the next day they would hold a separate meeting with the opposition parties, and finally, that a third meeting would be held with all parties.

All of these pretexts were rejected by the workers who insist that they did not agree to them. "The inclusion of opposition politicians was decided at a meeting held after we left Presidential House. We realized that this could be a dilatory tactic and we were not going to lend ourselves to such a game because the problem needs to be solved immediately."

Andres Victor Artiles criticized the TNE president's irresponsible attitude because in a radio program the president accused him of making comments that he never made such as "thingswill be done my (Artiles) way because I am the boss here."

"I did not say that," Artiles said,surprised, as he criticized Correa Cortes and other members of the TNE for their intransigent attitude. "The electoral tribunal is in very poor hands," he added.

Oscar Escalante of the CGT said that during Tuesday's meeting with TNE officials "there were several telephone calls — we know from where -- and notes were passed on little pieces of paper to Correa Cortes who, after reading the notes, became more aggressive." From what they told newsmen, the worker-peasant leaders realize that the president tricked them when he told them to go to the TNE. The fact that they accepted, knowing that the tribunal is controlled by Suazo Cordova, was criticized the moment it it was announced.

However, Andres Victor Artiles insists that they did not act naively but simply trusted President Roberto Suazo Cordova and believed that when they were sent to the TNE this was a political solution. Despite what has happened, the worker and peasant representatives still expect rectification and hope that the TNE officials will think things over until Saturday. "The time for national justice has come," said Artiles as he reiterated that the people's right to decide who their candidates will be in the upcoming elections must be respected. While all of this is taking place, President Suazo Cordova is gaining time and planning new strategies to prevent his plan from being toppled as the great elector in this electoral process. This is evident by the fact that he is more willing to accept plan "H" [not further explained] submitted by the worker-peasant movements. No one knows the origin of the plan which could lead to new internal clashes among the political groups if accepted by the opposing political forces.

Adan Palacios, representative of the Christian Democrats on the TNE, feels that the wisest thing to do is to hold the elections now instead of waiting until November. He said that if all of the candidates are allowed to participate in the November elections, this could lead to the division of the political parties into small forces. This is something that President Roberto Suazo Cordova could be planning and that is probably why he is in favor of that formula. "Many things can happen before November," an opposition politician said.

In other words, President Suazo Cordova continues to make fun of the Honduran people's aspirations and time is running in his favor. The Armed Forces, which were represented at Tuesday's meeting at Presidential House by General Walter Lopez Reyes, keep saying through their main chief: "We respect the position of the constitutional president of the Republic very much." This can be interpreted as definite support for Suazo Cordova's refusal to hold free and honest elections.

Court Views Labor Document

PA081505 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 May 85 p 1

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Supreme Court of Justice removed by the National Assembly has rejected the solutions presented by laborers and peasants to end the political crisis currently affecting the country. Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo and his magistrates' position is as follows: "The Supreme Court of Justice has read carefully the document that includes the position of the labor and peasant movement regarding the institutional crisis currently affecting the country and makes the following statement:

1. The Supreme Court of Justice believes that the labor sector has expressed its position in good faith, attempting to find a solution to the situation created by the National Assembly. However, it deeply regrets the fact that their solutions stray from constitutional principles when they suggest, as a solution, the resignation of the current magistrates from their offices in the Supreme Court of Justice since these officials were appointed for a 4-year period that ends on 27 January 1986.

2. The Supreme Court of Justice respectfully reminds the labor leaders that Supreme Court of Justice magistrates can be removed from their positions only for reasons and according to the guarantees established by the law in accordance with Article 309 of the Constitution of the Republic.

We delivered this document, as we have said. The worker and peasant organizations, after they analyze it calmly, will then be able to make statements to the Honduran people.

3. The Supreme Court of Justice also believes that when drafting Article 3 of the proposal, the labor movement contradicted its patriotic position to uphold the constitutional democratic system which all Hondurans chose in 1981.

4. The Supreme Court of Justice clarifies to the people and the labor leaders that the crisis was not begun by the judicial branch but by some members of the National Assembly who, in violation of Articles 82, 90, 304, and 309 of the Constitution of the Republic and other laws of the country, issued Decree No 33-85 removing the five magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice from office.

5. No crime that would merit the removal from office of any members of the Supreme Court of Justice has been proven. Should this have been the case, there are special procedures established in Articles 119, 120, 121, and 122 of the new Code of Procedures, which the National Assembly itself approved, to be followed.

6. Regarding the suggestion to forbid the president of the Supreme Court of Justice to participate in party politics, this disposition is included in Article 311 of the Constitution, and it has been respected by the head of the judicial branch.

Tegucigalpa, D.C., 26 April

[Signed] Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, president

TNE Rejects Primary Elections

PA040138 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 2343 GMT 3 May 85

[Text] Rene Correa Cortes, chairman of the TNE, has just left an important meeting with worker and peasant organizations, attended by Armed Forces Chief General Walter Lopez Reyes. The meeting was to make known to the leaders the document drafted by the TNE. The labor and peasant commission set a deadline, tomorrow, for the government to give a final answer to their proposal in which they presented two alternatives. Correa reports to us on this important meeting with Gen Lopez Reyes and the labor and peasant organizations.

[Begin recording] [Correa] We have just left a meeting with the Armed Forces chief, officers, and leaders of labor and peasant organizations. During the meeting we delivered to them the TNE resolution. The following note was handed over to Andres Victor Artiles, secretary general of the Honduran Workers Confederation.

We hereby deliver to you the resolution issued by the TNE regarding the proposal presented by leaders of labor and peasant organizations. The TNE was asked to express an opinion on the convenience of alternatives A and B included in the proposal presented by you on Tuesday, 30 April. We hereby express our stance on the points under discussion. A decision has been reached, taking into consideration the great responsibility of this organization regarding its fundamental purpose, namely, conducting of the electoral process and strengthening democracy on behalf of the country's peace. This is our response.

This decision is the result of a long discussion by all TNE members who, responsibly and civicly, analyzed each of the various stances. As the result of this discussion, the majority of TNE members agreed that it is impossible to hold internal elections on 14 July. This document will be public to the Honduran people, announcing the TNE decision that such internal elections could imperil the 24 November elections.

[Reporter] Since you are the TNE chairman, we would like to know Gen Lopez Reyes' stance. Did he learn of the document? Was the document analyzed during this meeting? Or will the leaders give an answer after they consider the document?

[Correa] Those who were there served only as representatives at this protocol meeting. They only took delivery of the document and said they would later consider and discuss it.

[Reporter] Did the labor and peasant leaders adopt a particular stance, or will they wait until tomorrow for their pronouncement? Will they meet with you at the TNE tomorrow?

[Correa] I think they will analyze the TNE response and then express their opinion. Should they later request a meeting with us, we are willing to hold one with them, providing it will be to seek solutions to this problems.

[Reporter] Was the TNE decision unanimous?

[Correa] The decision adopted by a majority. As I have told you, this is how the decision was made.

[Reporter] What are the expectations for tomorrow? The Honduran people await the final solution of this problem. What are the perspectives for the working class?

[Correa] The TNE stance is clear enough. We have issued a document in which we explain the impossibility of holding these internal elections. The document, however, contains a second alternative, namely that the peasants accept discussing some other feasible solution.

[Reporter] Do you have any particular message for the labor and peasant class and the politicians, although workers and peasants are the most important in this case?

[Correa] Well, I think the labor and peasant organizations are directed by responsible, sensible people. They surely know that this country's destiny is in their hands, as well as in the hands of all those who, directly or indirectly, participate in these activities. I think they should ponder this document calmly, discuss it, and draw their own conclusions. As I have told you, should they have any doubts and want another meeting, we would gladly meet with them.

[Reporter] Did they set a deadline for their official answer to the TNE, accepting this document's proposal or making a counterproposal?

[Correa] We did not reach any agreement on this. After they analyze the document I suppose they will tell us something and then we will be able to report to the Honduran people. [end recording]

Labor Groups Amend Communique

PA082014 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 6 May 85 pp 2, 3

[Excerpts] The chilly rooms of the Honduran Central Bank have again been the setting of long deliberations by the sectors involved in the political crisis that has disrupted the functioning of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

This time the mediator is the Catholic Church, which must resort to all means of persuasion and prayer that a magic formula will be found to reconcile our clever but obdurate politicians. The deliberations among the leaders of our country's most powerful labor federations, Msgr Oscar Rodriguez on behalf of the church, and the parties in the conflict centered around the 11-point proposal submitted by trade union organizations to the three government branches on 19 April, with the Armed Forces approval. The change made in the document later, on 26 April, was accepted as valid.

The proposal was signed by the General Central Organization of Workers, Confederation of Honduran Workers, Central Federation of Unions of Free Honduran Workers, Trade Union Federation of Northern Honduran Workers, National Union of Peasants, Federation of Honduran Agrarian Reform Cooperatives, National Association of Honduran Peasants, and other groups. The 11-point proposal reads as follows:

1. That the democratic constitutionalist system be maintained.

2. That the president of the Republic pardon and free the magistrates elected by the National Congress.

3. That the incumbent and newly elected magistrates submit their resignations in order to allow the election of a new Supreme Court, composed of citizens who have had nothing to do with the current political crisis.

4. Reformed point. Reflecting the people's clamor once more, the workers and peasants categorically demand the following as a patriotic solution: A) That the internal elections of political parties be held not later than 14 July; B) that direct elections include the candidates of the various factions of the duly registered political parties and independent candidates who may participate in the elections of 24 November if the proposal contained in Point A is not viable; that the slates or tickets must include the candidates for president of the Republic, designated by the deputies and mayors [as published]; C) that the National Congress be composed in proportion to the votes garnished by each ticket; D) that a single ballot containing the ticket or slate of each one of the candidates of the parties, independent candidates, and candidates of whatever coalitions may arise be used to vote.

5. That the National Congress establish as a constitutional provision that citizens who hold the post of president of the Republic, president of the National Congress, and president and magistrate of the Supreme Court are barred from engaging in party politics during their term of office.

6. That the secretaries of state and deputies dedicate themselves to faithfully performing their functions and stop promoting dismissals of public employees to carry out sectarian political reprisals.

7. That a development program be drafted with the active participation of the worker, peasant, and other social organizations, the continuity of which would be maintained through every administration.

8. That the Congress discuss the document submitted by the worker and peasant organizations on 10 April.

9. That the deputies stop provocative speechmaking and personal insults.

10. The worker and peasant organizations reiterate their support for the constitutionalist stance adopted by the Armed Forces in order to find a solution to the current political crisis.

11. The worker-peasant movement warns the leaders of the political parties that they will be solely and directly responsible for whatever may occur in the country if they do not take into consideration the solutions proposed in this document.

ALIPO Leader Backs Primaries

PA081521 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 6 May 85 p 5

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa -- Jorge Bueso Arias, presidential candidate of the People's Liberal Alliance (ALIPO), believes that Hondurans should permanently establish "that the internal elections in political parties to choose candidates be supervised by the TNE in order to prevent fraudulent elections or weak candid tes who do not have popular support." The politician stated this Saturday night after participating in the meeting that workers' representatives held with political leaders. Bueso Arias said that if internal elections could not be held on 14 July, then "it is feasible that they could be held on 1 September." "We believe that internal elections are feasible, and in any case that is what the people want," Bueso Arias said. "We in the ALIPO want a short-, medium-, and long-term solution so that the people can choose their presidential candidates in internal elections through direct and secret vote, with every guarantee to protect their freedom to vote within their political party. In this way we will no longer see cliques acting against the people's will," Bueso Arias added.

Workers, Politicians 'Last Meeting'

PA091425 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Today at 0900 the last round of negotiations to find a solution to the institutional political crisis affecting the country will be held. The two sectors involved in the issue will meet. Today the last meeting between the workers and the politicians will be held. Yesterday the labor and union leaders suspended the negotiations. However, these will be resumed following the request made by Msgr Oscar Rodriguez, who is acting as mediator. The meeting will be held in the conference room of the Central Bank of Honduras. Last night the labor and union leaders announced that today's meeting will be the last one to find a solution to the institutional crisis. This meeting will be attended by all the parties involved and the representative of the Catholic Church, Msgr Oscal Andres Rodriguez.

Yesterday the labor and union leaders concluded a meeting at the Honduran Workers Confederation's [CTH] assembly hall totally convinced that holding internal elections prior to the 24 November elections would be impossible. During a press conference yesterday the labor and peasant representatives said that no one has been able to convince them that it is impossible to hold the internal elections as a means to resolve the institutional crisis. Meanwhile, last night, the well-known leader of the agrarian reform cooperatives, (Efrain Diaz Galea), told a radio station that at the last minute Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova would agree to hold internal elections. (Diaz Galea), an adviser for the Federation of Honduran Agrarian Reform Cooperatives, said yesterday that they had learned that President Suazo Cordova might agree to internal elections prios to the 24 November elections.

The political issue was not discussed at the National Assembly. However, they did discuss an important legislative matter regarding compulsory military service. Last night, during the third and last debate, the National Assembly approved the bill on compulsory military service. This bill will modernize the recruiting system within the Honduran Armed Forces.

While this was going on at the National Assembly and while the workers' meeting at the CTH remained convinced that primary elections can be held, the National Security Council met at the presidential house. The spokesman for the National Security Council, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, reiterated that the Armed Forces have expressed their total support for Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova during these moments of political crisis. Paz Barnica added that it is not true that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] has occupied 40 km of Honduran territory.

While the workers were meeting at the CTH and at the National Assembly the compulsory military service bill was being approved, President Suazo Cordova was presiding over the meeting of the National Security Council held at the presidential house. The Armed Forces, through the National Security Council, reiterated last night their total support for President Robert Suazo Cordova in view of the political crisis experienced by the country. Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica said that it is not true that the EPS has taken 40 km of Honduran territory, however, he did say that in the past few days the Sandinist's have been harrassing the Honduran Army.

NICARAGUA

AREA MINISTERS' DECLARATION BACKS REAGAN

PA082254 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] In a joint declaration just released in San Salvador, the Honduran, Costa Rican, and Salvadoran foreign ministers and the Guatemalan deputy foreign minister agreed to back U.S. President Ronald Reagan's game of promoting a discriminatory policy against the Nicaraguan Government. The declaration stresses the importance, according to them, of the direct participation of the Central American countries in the negotiation or drafting of any agreement. Nicaragua was not invited to this meeting of Central American foreign ministers.

U.S. EMBARGO DENOUNCED TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

PA091739 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] United Nations -- Nicaragua went today to the UN Security Council to denounce the U.S. paranoia that has caused it to decree an economic boycott with the objective of overthrowing the Sandinist government. Javier Chamorro Mora, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, opened the council sessions which were convoked at his country's request to examine the serious situation in Central America. During the course of his dissertation, he accused U.S. President Reagan of launching a covert war against Nicaragua. We have come before this organization to denounce the [words indistinct] aggressions and the consequences of the dirty, imposed, undeclared war of the Reagan administration against our country, which is poor and underdeveloped [word indistinct] said Javier Chamorro. The Nicaraguan representative said, however, that he harbors the hope that prudence, intelligence, and [word indistinct] will prevail over intransigence and (?arrogance).

PRESIDENT ORTEGA VISITS GDR, MEETS HONECKER

For GDR media coverage of the visit to the GDR of President Daniel Ortega, including talks with GDR General Secretary Erich Honecker, see the GDR section of the 9 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

RAUL CASTRO, OTHER LEADERS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

FL031751 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 3 May 85

[Press conference held by Army General Raul Castro, Politburo member Jorge Risquet, and Rosario Fernandez, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions Central Committee and Secretariat, in Sancti Spiritus on 1 May with unidentified reporters -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Army General Raul Castro, today is the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Territorial Troops Militia. What results have been observed in the combat training and degree of organization of those forces?

[Castro] It was exactly 5 years ago, on 1 May 1980, that the commander in chief issued the call to speed up the plan that we had for creating these new forces, called in this case the Territorial Troops Militia, better known by their initials as the MTT. This is really the continuation of the glorious National Revolutionary Militias, which played such an important role in annihilating the counterrevolutionary bands, in the Bay of Pigs victory, and in the birth of the new type of army, the army of workers, the socialist army, the first of its kind on our continent.

Really, if it were possible to measure, which it is very hard to do, or try to make a comparison...[rephrases] Many comrades, some of whom are top leaders of the party and government who served for many years in the FAR, agree that in the past 5 years we have advanced more in the building of our Armed Forces, in the development of the defensive potential of the nation than in the preceding 20 years. Naturally, without the work of those initial years -- apart from the willingness of our people which, as in all matters and especially in matters of defense, has never failed to answer any call that the revolution, the party, and Fidel has made -- without that prior work, we would not have been able to achieve the great advances of the past 5 years.

This came about as a result of the improvements in the organic structure of the Armed Forces that we started making about 6 years ago, but fundamentally it was accelerated by the growing complication of the international situation, especially in our area. It must be remembered that the last year of U.S. President Carter's term, he sped-up the measures that President Reagan would also speed up later. But more important, it was during the U.S. presidential elections. The platform of the Republican Party had already been made public: the famous document known as the Santa Fe Document, in which the line that U.S. President Reagan has consistently been carrying out was established. If he has not carried it out completely, it is only because conditions have not allowed him to. This was when he [Fidel Castro] made his call.

You will remember that, in a few months, our forces grew by one-half million combatants. Regiments were organized, then divisions were organized, and then even an army corps with several divisions was organized in the capital of the Republic. At that moment we undertook the task, in a planned but accelerated manner, of preparing tens of thousands of officials, men and women, fewer women in the beginning but more somewhat later, when our forces were growing another half million. It was a hard job that required a great effort and could not have been done without the participation of the entire country in the first place, the willingness of the entire people, of all the workers, including peasants, students, and intellectuals.

This gigantic task could not have been carried out if the party, from the grass roots to the highest national level, had not been at the very center of the task. Rapidly, with help from the USSR and other socialist countries, in addition to light weapons we acquired in different countries, in less than one year after Comrade Fidel had made this call on 1 May 1980, we had received the light weapons for that first half million and were giving training courses of 5 and 1/2 months and 11 months duration to tens of thousands of new reserve officers. [sentence as heard]

Largely for political reasons, it was decided to call upon the people to help pay the cost of this gigantic new force with their own contributions. What we have achieved to date surpassed all our initial calculations. Suffice it to say that, in 1983, with the people's donations in various forms -- voluntary work, donations from wages, and so on; pioneers who with their lunch money helped by contributing very modestly but with great symbolic force; our intellectuals, to whom we have not given publicity by citing names but who have donated hundreds of thousands of pesos, some have even contributed dollars from works published abroad. I was saying that it is enough to remember that, in 1983, with these donations, 45 percent of the costs of the MTT were paid. I am not going to give you the figures for 1984 because I do not have an exact figure, but it exceeded 50 percent. This shows the popular nature of this force.

Later, when the force had grown by one-half million, the commander in chief told us to begin on the second half million. At that time I told him there were not enough men. You must remember that hundreds of thousands of young men belong to the regular forces reserve.

Even though we have not established a definite age limit, we have one in mind. But it is always a complication when people reach it because the militia must tell them that they can no longer belong. That is to say that we are guided by more than age, we are guided by their physical conditions and by their possibilities. But bearing in mind the concept of a people's war, in which each citizen has a means, a place, and a way to fight, which was one of the greatest problems to be solved, now there is practically no age limit.

To each one with a means, with a method and way to fight, we try to create conditions so that they can perform their sacred duty of their country's defense.

When I told Fidel that we would run out of men, he said: There are women. I don't remember in which month of 1983 or maybe the beginning of 1984, I made that statement while on a tour of Pinar del Rio on behalf of the party in the municipality of Los Palacios, or San Cristobal. The people of Pinar del Rio will forgive me if I don't remember exactly. It was in Pinar del Rio. The press picked up this comment I made and the women responded massively and immediately.

Now with the experience of the first half million, each half million has a 30-percent reserve, equally well-trained. There are two groups of half a million each with a 30-percent reserve. That is 1.3 million. We completed this in less than 1 year, the length of time we had given ourselves. Once this activity was completed, we trained personnel and officers and found weapons for them. Weapons for the second half-million are already in the country -- we had three great problems to solve with that great mass of combatants in which as I said, in this second half million, women played a fundamental role.

The three problems were the following: the leadership of that giant force, the combatant cohesion of the force, and its material security.

We knew that combative cohesion would be acquired with time and training, with drills, with instruction, and so forth. We have solved the leadership problem with the defense councils chaired by the respective first secretaries. All levels of the party from the defense zones, the municipalities, the provinces and all the forces were directed by the National Defense Council headed by our First Secretary and Commander in Chief, Comrade Fidel.

The third aspect, no less important, was multilateral security. It is not enough to instruct someone, give him a rifle, and give him his mission if we have not obtained multilateral security. The country's resources are limited. The troop reserves are large and constantly increasing. The contradiction always exists between the daily pressures for material resources necessary for the normal development of the country and for the reserves needed by the state and the Armed Forces, in this case, the MTT.

The party leadership recently decided to set up people's reserves that would not be touched under any circumstances. We would contribute financially to it, up to a limit, so as not to affect the technical-economic plans or the development of the country or the guarantees of what each citizen will receive according to the development level of our economy. Our contributions would not even affect the parallel market. In stages and in a decentralized way, we have taken the first steps to obtain this third factor of the multilateral security of this force.

We had a giant task ahead of us. How to include a people under the concepts of the peoples war and that is costly. As we said, with donations from the public, more than 50 percent of those costs are covered. One has to keep in mind, and it is not included in these calculations, that the MTT member pays for it all, his uniform, including his boots, knapsack, and canteen, everything except for the rifle and ammunition. So that percentage is even greater.

Instruction is costly. In the first place, it is costly in time. It is the free time of the people that is to be used. These tens of thousands of new officers of the new reserve with the passing of time acquire greater maturity, greater experience. Since 2 December of last year, when we celebrated for the first time the national defense day, we insisted that the people's free time be respected with better organization. If there are only conditions for one morning of training on the National Defense Sunday, to cite an experience that occurred in Pinar del Rio, if there are only conditions to instruct one company, it is not necessary to mobilize a battalion, let alone a regiment. I believe that in these past few months, the people's opinion on this aspect has improved. It was a critical constant and even though it has diminished recently there is still much to be done.

We had the great problem of defining what is the People's War. We recognize its general principles in our revolutionary heritage of the past centuries, the experience of all the peoples that have struggled and who are currently struggling. But how could we obtain the concept in the most economical way possible? How could we obtain it rationally? We were stopped because we lacked definite aspects and we concluded, rightly, that the people themselves would tell us what to do. In reality, this is the way it has been. The masses have taught us how to do this, in multiple drills, starting with the defense zones which we have witnessed and which have been realized in the entire country.

Defense Sunday, which began in Pinar del Rio and was extended throughout the entire nation, is a positive experience, rationing of time so that militia members can be trained without he or she having to waste any time, the proving grounds being built at municipal levels. In recent months I saw one in operation in Pinar del Rio built very economically with local resources.

The incorporation of SEPMI, that is, the Society for Patriotic-Military Education, which our communist youth has been heading for several months, the coordination with all state and mass organizations, the party, etc. from childhood until senior years, during the creates this new man who we see in our great youth.

Adding all those factors, although there are some aspects which need to be resolved and will have to be improved with time and with all necessary changes, the general idea has been shaped and, as I said, needs to be improved, but after that the entire population is ready for war.

As I said a while ago when I greeted Sancti Spiritus people on May Day, and as Fidel recently said, we will continue to do it even if the United States turns to socialism.

Today we can say there are many factories with weapons inside of them, protected by the workers. We could ask ourselves which burgeois democracy, which capitalist country out of the past, present, or future is able to place weapons in their own factories as a supreme proof of democracy -- proletarian democracy, because there is also the burgeois democracy, which is the democracy of the governing class.

The leap we have taken is gigantic. We have been able to solve these three big problems: direction, cohesion, and material promises are being rapidly solved.

All know their tasks. The tasks are assigned directly to a percentage of these forces by regular troops in accordance with area, location, operational or strategic command. The majority of these forces receive their orders at the provincial defense councils as part of a unique plan and ideas which are coordinated within the plan for troops covering territories which include several provinces. From the rank and file level, the cornerstone of all structures is based on defense zones which have matured and advanced rapidly without exaggeration.

There is not even 1 square meter of the entire national territory, including keys and adjacent islands of the national territory, which does not know what to do in case of an aggression. I would never like to see the unleashing of this gigantic force of an armed, organized, and well-led people in all areas, including, in this case, the defense zones. We are making an effort and we have the duty, assigned to us by our party, to take care of these activities, to foresee all possbiliities beginning with the worst ones. The worst of these possibilities is a direct aggression by the United States. We have to be realistic and explore these possibilities.

I repeat, I would not like to see this, and this is why we struggle. We make huge investments, and our entire people's effort is gigantic to avoid having to witness this spectacle. But I can affirm that the United States can invade us, but it will be impossible for the U.S. to occupy this country because of the great price they would have to pay.

Now, they confessed they lost nearly 60,000 men in Vietnam, not counting wounded and material losses, about which they care little because the military-industrial complex is a great business, in addition to weapon production, which is one of the great businesses in the universe of industrialized countries. There will be more profits for these monopolies.

All this, as I said in the remarks I made a while ago, bring a great peace of mind, even though I repeat, as minister of the Armed Forces, I cannot sleep in peace until, with everyone's effort, we have the absolute conviction that the enemy who gets here will be defeated. We already have that capacity but we want the defeat to be even more crushing. This is what I can say about your first question.

[Reporter] Well, the second question is almost answered, but I would like for you to expand further on the women's role in the MTT, and what will be the MTT's next steps to incorporate women?

[Castro] Well, the next incorporation of large groups of women will proceed because it is where we have great reserves.

We are truly impressed when we think about the efforts of our women, women of all ages. As I said, in each unit of this type, 30 percent are reserves. Every time a unit is called upon to attend a study meeting, or a training session, or any one of the many activities conducted every month such a Defense Sunday... [sentence incomplete] Unfortunately, while the men's militia units respond to those calls by 75 or 80 percent, perhaps a little better than that, the great majority of the women's units not only respond by 100 percent, but also the 30 percent of the reserves are always present.

It must be said that the women -- I do not say this ironically -- are always on time, better disciplined, and carry out their tasks very responsibly. I am not going to go into details about why it is so. They work harder than we do. A large majority are married women, workers who also have social obligations. Many are members of the party or the Union of Young Communists. If they are workers, they also have union duties in addition to their work. They also have to care for their children.

How can they do all that? I said I was not going to go into details about this which has been discussed at length during the last congress, including all the references to this subject by Comrade Fidel.

Marti had already referred to the women's role, and Fidel has done likewise in the past 25 years of building socialism. I have had the opportunity of observing the Palma Soriano municipality exercises conducted by women's units. I have seen women in charge of platoons, companies, battalions, and even regiments, out in the field, in the sector they have to defend, making decisions during a practice attack with the same or better proficiency than many of our officers, than many of our colonels.

I do not mean that the others are not well prepared, but sometimes they might be nervous when being observed by a group of leaders. In reality, that is the way all those who participated in these activities -- the annually-held military short training courses for party provincial committee first secretaries and presidents of people's governments -- feel about the women. The same thing could be repeated anywhere in the country where women participate.

Summing it up, we can say that we are more than proud of our women. A country where the women, regardless of age, have such an attitude has to be an invincible country. We know we are right but it must be demonstrated. It is not sufficient to say we are right. Without alluding to our men's militias, just with our women's attitude in this sphere we are referring to, we can say this is an invincible country.

[Reporter] We would like to know the party leadership's evaluation of the assembly process going on throughout the country in preparation for the third congress, and the main points discussed in these meetings.

[Castro] As a member of the third congress central preparatory committee, I have been assigned Santiago de Cuba Province. For many reasons and, above all, because I was abroad 1 month, I have not been able to do anything personally but I have been reading the documents emanating from that province's municipalities and have been following the process. I would suggest that the question be answered by Comrade Risquet, who has had a greater participation. That way we share the press conference. Do you agree? [reporter responds affirmatively]

[Risquet] The assembly meeting process, which will end with the third party congress, began in January. It began with assembly meetings to evaluate, elect and/or reelect officers at the nucleus level. These were immediately followed by committee assembly meetings at those work centers where several nuclei are united under a primary committee, provided each has more than 50 members.

In March, they were still celebrating committee meetings at the nucleus level in many areas. The assembly process on the municipal level had begun. I had the opportunity and the deep satisfaction of participating in the first municipal assembly, which was the assembly of Caimanera municipality. This assembly was characterized by profound analysis by all participants, which centered the discussion on the main problems of production, the economy, education problems, public health problems, defense problems, problems of the ideological struggle -- that is to say the fundamental questions to which the party directs its activity.

Caimanera municipality is small, having about 7,000 residents. But the most important saltworks in the country are there. A very good discussion on salt production was held there, including the gains made in that activity this year as well as in 1984, despite the fact that the country's northern saltworks were unable to complete their plan because of bad weather. As you know, most of Cuba's saltworks are along the northern coast, in Matanzas, in the Marti Zone, in Sagua, Las Villas, in Santa Lucia, Camaguey, and in Porto Padre, in the Province of Las Tunas, and on the southern coast, the Guantanamo saltworks, which are adjacent to the Yankee naval base at Caimanera.

The work of the Guantanamo salt workers was so brilliant and effective that it made it possible for them to exceed their plan and thus overcome the deficit of the rest of the saltworks. They produced enough salt for human consumption. Last year, the country exported 8,000 tons of salt. They should export 25,000 tons of salt this year, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Guantanamo salt workers.

In addition to that, they pledged to send all the collaborators necessary to Angola, where we are responding to a request by the Angolan Government. We are helping that country to increase its salt production. Maintaining their production levels with the same labor force, they have pledged, are willing, and have signed up as volunteers to send the necessary workers and technicians for this internationalist cooperation in Angola.

What other things did they discuss in that assembly in Caimanera? They discussed the port of Boqueron, how the port had compiled a record of quick dispatches and the measures that must be taken to maintain this surplus, this positive balance, in the operation of the port. It was one of the few ports in the country -- Casilda is another one that has done this -- that has compiled a record of prompt dispatching so far this year. Some other ports in the country have had to pay demurrage.

Public health was also discussed at the assembly. It is sufficient to say this: So far this year, they had an infant mortality rate of zero. Two or three children are born there each week and none has died. All are getting along well. They had in the first 3 months of the year -- that is January and February because the meeting was in the first few days of March -- in the first 2 months of the year, they had an infant mortality rate of zero.

They talked about education. They talked about defense. It must be said that here, as Fidel said, the imperialist enemy is not 90 miles away, but rather 90 centimeters away, on the other side of the fence, where the Yankee soldiers are, who are usurping that part of our national territory. That was the first municipality in the country to be declared ready for defense, because it completed a series of requisites to obtain this classification. These requisites have to do with the combat readiness of the militias, shelters, camouflage, and a group established norms.

They also discussed education and ideology. And when you turn on the television where U.S. television channels can be received, the ideological struggle becomes more acute and that was analyzed in great detail by the delegates to the assembly.

I can also talk to you about the assembly in Maisi, where I had the opportunity to be last Sunday. It was also a high-quality assembly. What did they discuss in Maisi? They discussed coffee production; they discussed cacao production; they discussed the production of minor fruits, especially caladium, which grows well in that area. They discussed the production of milk, which they produce for their own use. But the main emphasis was put on coffee, as an exportable crop. The magnificent experiences in the organization of the labor force for the coffee harvest were demonstrated. Among the delegates, the participants there at the meeting, was a female comrade who harvested more than 3,000 cans of coffee. She was a national vanguard in that activity.

They also discussed education problems and how to avoid immigration by residents of that community to poles of attraction such as Moa, where there is a large development plan, as you know.

They discussed problems in education, in the internal organization and function of the party. It was a very detailed assembly, where it was demonstrated how the quality of our party is celebrated. The education level is higher, the ideas of the people are expressed fluently and properly, maturely and in depth. The political consciousness is deep as is the sense of criticism and self-criticism, which is evident in the evaluations of the party members in the nuclei, and in the evaluations of the municipal-level leaders. That is, criticism and self-criticism has been improved a great deal in our party.

The municipal process has already begun; I speak of Maisi and Cimanera because in the Province of Guantanamo, we plan to accompany their processes in the name of the Central Organizing Commission of the congress.

Also, for example, the municipal assemblies of Antilla, and of Rafael Freire, in Holguin Province -- and I mention this other province because I am also going to participate in the process there -- have been of great quality. What we have said of another four municipalities of Guantanamo and Holguin could also be said of all the municipalities of all the provinces in the country.

The party provincial assemblies will be held during the second half of 1985, and all this will culminate successfully in the third party congress, towards the end of the present year. We are satisfied with the way in which the process is being carried out. It has greater depth and quality than the preparatory process of the second and first party congresses, and this gives the measure of how our party is progressing as the organized, conscious vanguard of our people. It is progressing, together with the entire people and the entire revolutionary process. I do not know whether this answers your question.

[Reporter] It does. We would like to know how the ninth-grade campaign has been considered, how the incorporation of the workers into the ninth grade was discussed.

[Risquet] I have a proposal: Comrade Rosario Fernandez has accompanied us here to Sancti Spiritus to celebrate 1 May. Let us allow her to answer that question, to conclude.

[Fernandez] We can say that, today, coinciding with 1 May, we had the chance to declare another province, Sancti Spiritus, victorious in the ninth-grade program. It was a mass ceremony and an extraordinary incentive for our workers who, after doing their daily work and making extraordinary efforts, have fulfilled their pledge to reach the third party congress with a victory in this eminently ideological battle.

Without a doubt, we are seeing in practice how raising the cultural and technical level of our working class is reflected in production increases, in increased productivity, in quality. To the degree that the cultural level is raised, one not only learns these sciences [as heard] but one also strengthens conscience, because education is logically responsive to the class that holds power.

Since the working class holds power here, the ideology that is transmitted, that is consolidated, that is strengthened is Marxist-Leninist.

In general terms, the ninth-grade struggle is progressing well. We already have four provinces that have won this battle: Matanzas, Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, and Sancti Spiritus. We hope that by 26 July an important part of the provinces will have won their struggle. We already have more than one-half million workers who have completed the ninth grade during this 5-year plan, and we are sure we will surpass the figure of 600,000 by the time the congress starts.

We want especially to say that Guantanamo Province, where we are going to celebrate 26 July, will also reach the goal by that date. They have been doing a very good job. In general, there is no place of work, however far off the beaten track it may lie, that is not working and struggling to meet the ninth-grade goal.

We believe we are going to be able to fulfill our pledge, and we are preparing for the coming battle, which is that of technical training. Of these 600,000 workers who will complete ninth grade, about 100,000 will have done so while receiving technical training too, in courses for specialized workers, medium-level technicians, and others. In fact, they are not only acquiring new knowledge but are contributing to, and perfecting, the activities they participate in.

We believe that raising the cultural and technical level of the working class will help in waging the people's economic war that the party and Fidel have called for by consolidating it, and making it more conscious and faster. These are the impressions that we wanted to express.

[Reporter] Which provinces are farthest behind in this struggle?

[Fernandez] Well, the two... [laughs] the two Havana provinces are a little behind. The two Havana and the special municipality of the Isle of Youth. Nevertheless, we are sure they will reach the goal. It must be said that the capital is overloaded with activities, which may have had some influence. But we will not give up. We know the working class is homogeneous. To the degree that the cadres provide guidance, it responds. I believe this is being consolidated in these two provinces. If they do not meet the plan, we will not blame the workers. We repeat that we have the hope of reaching the congress with the goal fulfilled.

MALMIERCA MEETS WITH SOVIET IVAN KALIN

FL100141 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has met in the Foreign Ministry offices a high-level Soviet delegation headed by Ivan Petrovich Kalin, candidate member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. During the meeting, they underscored the friendship ties which unite the two countries.

Later, the Foreign Ministry's main ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism and the 25th anniversary of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USSR was held.

BARBADOS

EDITORIAL DENOUNCES NEW MARXIST WORKERS PARTY

FL092210 Bridgetown CANA in English 2129 GMT 9 May 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 9, CANA -- The Trinidad GUARDIAN newspaper has denounced the formation of the Marxist Workers Party of Barbados (WPB) and warned that it would be dangerous to disregard their activities. The newspaper, in an editorial following the May 1 launching of the party in Bridgetown, said it would be most natural to dismiss the party as a bunch of jokers. But it would be a dangerous form of indifference for us simply to disregard their activities, wherever these Marxist groups exist, in the belief that they would never succeed in gaining popular support or amounting to a serious threat to our democratic way of life, said the editorial. The Trinidad GUARDIAN called for continued vigilance, declaring: The maxim that eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, remains profoundly true. A group of Barbadians, led by University of the West Indies lecturer in government, Dr George Belle, launched the WPB at a public function attended by leftist sympathisers from around the region.

DOMINICA

FRANCE PROVIDES GRANT TO DEVELOP AIRSTRIP

FL081729 Bridgetown CANA in English 0023 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 7, CANA -- France is to provide Dominica with a grant of 10 million francs -- about U.S. $1 million -- to develop the island's increasingly popular canefield airstrip just outside the capital, Roseau, it has been officially announced. A government statement said the money will go towards construction of a terminal building, lengthening of the 600-metre long strip by another 800 metres, as well as providing lighting facilities for nighttime emergencies. The grant will also allow for the provision of navigation equipment for the airstrip, which, because of its proximity to the capital, is rapidly gaining in popularity over the island's main commercial airport, Melville Hall, 48 miles north of Roseau.

PARTIES RELY ON YOUNG CONSTITUENTS' VOTES

FL091830 Bridgetown CANA in English 1915 GMT 9 May 85

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 8, CANA -- Dominica's two major political parties are trying to persuade young people to shed their well known apathy and cast their votes at the next general elections, constitutionally due next October, but widely expected as early as July. The ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) and the opposition Labour Party of Dominica (LPD) are both relying heavily on the so-called youth vote to push them past the electoral finish line. They have good reason, too, for their reliance. The best estimate is that young people constitute as much as 60 per cent of the voting population; hence, their preference would be crucial to the outcome of the general elections. The state electoral office is also playing its part in trying to grab the attention of the young Dominican voter. The office has sponsored announcements and jingles on state radio urging Dominicans to vote, vote, vote. Chief Elections Officer Clem John said the campaign has had an impact, noting that young people are the ones now registering to vote, especially in the rural areas of Dominica.

But it is the voting intention of these young people that is the concern of the political leaders of both the DFP and the LPD. Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles of the Freedom Party is certain that the youth vote will go to Freedom. I think we will get the majority of the young votes; in every form and shape we have done a great deal (for youths) and we have shown that our young people can compete favourably in sports, said Charles. But Labour Party of Dominica leader Michael Douglas is equally confident of the support of the youths, noting that in one constituency alone the LPD had spearheaded efforts to get as many as 500 young people registered. The majority of our population are young people. The Freedom Party has neglected that, and we are committed, dedicated to ensuring that young people are a dynamic part of the party of the government, Douglas declared.

An official break-down of the voting population by age is not available, but in the last general elections in July 1980, there were more than 38,400 registered voters in Dominica. The DFP won 17 of the 21 seats in that poll.

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT PUTS TOGETHER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

FL061900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1316 GMT 5 May 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 5, CANA -- The Grenada Government is putting together a comprehensive public sector development strategy in which the state will concentrate on the physical and economic infrastructural development of the country, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said. He told parliament under the plan, government intends to place the job of developing the productive sector of the economy solely in the hands of the private sector. The government's comprehensive strategy for development would involve to a large degree participation by the private sector, he said.

Economic policies to be pursued by the government over the next five years will be geared towards providing a framework for economic growth, attaining self-sufficiency, reducing the 30 per cent level of unemployment, controlling inflation, and raising living standards. Blaize said his five-month-old administration will shortly appoint a National Economic Council to be made up of representatives from a wide cross section of the community, especially persons involved in management, labour, banking, and agriculture. This body's role will be to help government plan the island's economic development. Blaize said his administration intends to pursue this approach to economic planning, because past strategies were too restrictive and narrow, and had excluded from the planning mechanisms the very elements that are necessary for the successful outcome of any economic plan.

He said as part of its economic development strategy, government plans to accept an offer from Venezuela to send a number of Grenadian technicians there to observe the Venezuelan approach to economic planning, and determine if any features could be implemented here. There are also plans, Blaize said, for the government to carry out an investigation into all public sector enterprises with a view to improving their operations, and if possible, to place some of them into hands of the private sector. In this connection, he announced that government proposes to invite a team of experts to undertake a professional assessment of all existing public sector enterprises, with a view to formulating a position as regards their possible privatization. Such a study would pay close attention to the political, social, economic, and financial implications, and will make recommendations for assisting the government in developing a workable privatization strategy, Blaize said.

He indicated that a team of experts would be invited to help the government develop a proper debt monitoring and management system aimed at preventing the island from going deeper into debt. At the end of March, Grenada's national debt stood at 160.5 million dollars (one EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.). Blaize said government was committed to controlling and reducing this debt to the extent that its borrowings would be severely limited to concessional ones. He said out of every 100 dollars earned in revenue by Grenada, 38.50 dollars would have to be committed to debt servicing.

JAMAICA

SEAGA DESIRES GREATER U.S. PRESS RESPONSIBLITY

FL091840 Bridgetown CANA in English 1750 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 8, CANA -- Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga wants to see greater sensitivity and responsibility from the American press in their coverage of events impacting on the economies of Third World countries like his own.

The choice of the emotive, inaccurate word, of the narrowly focussed lens -- literally and metaphorically -- can exact a heavy toll on the person or country being reported, Seaga told Tuesday's annual convention of the American Newspaper Publishers Association in Miami, the official JAMPRESS news agency said. The untrammelled privilege under which the United States media operate carries with it a countervailing responsibility as it applies to coverage of overseas events, the Jamaica leader added.

Seaga's concern grew out of international coverage of gas-petrol price increase demonstrations in January, which the government says was over-blown and sensationalised in the foreign media. The administration was particularly perturbed by the characterisation of the three days of protests, when roads were blocked with burning debris, and riots ensued. Five persons were killed during flare-ups involving clashes between the police and demonstrators or government supporters and demonstrators. Seaga told the newspaper publishers that the spectacular coverage of the January events led to a 15 per cent fall off in visitor arrivals and the loss of U.S.$30 million to economically strapped Jamaica.

The former Jamaica prime minister, Michael Manley, and his adminsitration used to be critical of the coverage of Jamaica by the American press, which was largely hostile to its socialist policies, the strong pro-Third World bent, and friendships with communist nations, including Cuba.

Seaga came to power in 1980 as a free enterpriser and has taken Jamaica close to Washington.

The prime minister told the American newspaper bosses that he inherited an economy which had gone through a long period of negative performance and with none of the key indicators moving in a positive direction. To rectify the economic problems, Jamaica was going through a period of adjustment with emphasis placed on those sectors which could earn foreign exchange. But to achieve this, a sense of stability and healthy investment climate are key components, he said. The perception in North America, our closest and largest source of investment, as to whether these exist is largely a function of impressions conveyed by coverage of the North American media, he declared. The prime minster said whether a story was critical or favorable to the country was not as important as its accuracy, sensitivity, and understanding of the Jamaican reality which it must display.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

CURACAO REFINERY SEEKS TO MINIMIZE LOSSES

FL061916 Bridgetown CANA in English 1743 GMT 6 May 85

[Text] Willemstad, Curacao, May 6, CANA-REUTER -- Curacao's lone oil refinery has reduced its liftings of Venezuelan heavy crude by 50,000 barrels per day (BPD) to 55,000 BPD this month to minimize refining losses, a refinery spokesman said.

Royal Dutch Shell has threatened to close the 320,000 BPD capacity Caribbean refinery if no settlement is reached by June 30 on a formula to eliminate its heavy losses.

Last year, Shell demanded a 50,000 BPD increase in deliveries of Venezuelan heavy crude from the 1984 contracted level of 90,000 BPD as one of its conditions for keeping the refinery open. Venezuela agreed and began supplying an additional 15,000 BPD in January, with a promise to raise the supplemental deliveries to 25,000 from July 1 and 50,000 from January 1, 1986.

However, Shell's talks with the Netherlands Antilles on its other conditions for keeping the refinery open reached deadlock over the company's demand that the island's government buy a majority share in the plant.

The refinery spokesman said the 50,000 BPD cut in crude liftings applied only to May and the situation could be normalized in June.

Following the collapse of negotiations between Shell and Netherlands Antilles, Venezuela and the Netherlands held talks last month on ways of saving the refinery. The two governments tentatively agreed to establish a mechanism for permanent consultations on the Netherlands Antilles economy, in order to provide political guarantees for Shell to continue operating the Curacao refinery as the majority shareholder. Diplomatic sources in Caracas said the oil company had subsequently asked for a 1.50 dollar per barrel price cut in its liftings of Venezuelan crude as an inducement to comply with this arrangement.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TESORO PETROLEUM COMPANY ANNOUNCES OIL FIND

FL091830 Bridgetown CANA in English 1733 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 8, CANA -- Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company has announced a significant oil find in the south of the country. The initial flow of oil from the well approached the 400 barrel a day mark but, officials said, production had now levelled off at about 200 barrels a day.

A company official said the find was significant enough to hold out possibilities of supplying crude to the state refineries at Pointe-a-Pierre and Point Fortin.

This is the second important oil discovery in South Trinidad in recent times. In April, Premier Consolidated Oilfields said it had begun tapping a well in the south which is now producing 150 barrels a day.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

DOCTORS STRIKE PARALYZES HOSPITAL SERVICES

FL081414 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 May 85

[Text] Medical services in public hospitals in the Dominican Republic were paralyzed yesterday as doctors called a 24-hour strike to demand a 100-percent salary hike. The Dominican Medical Association, which says it represents 5,000 doctors, organized the strike to demand higher wages, improvements in public hospitals, and jobs for unemployed doctors. Initially scheduled to last 72 hours, the strike was cut down to 24 hours after talks with President Salvador Jorge Blanco. Only emergency medical services were being offered during the walkout.

PARAGUAY

PLRA PRESIDENT REPORTS HARASSMENT OF MEMBERS

PY062332 Asuncion SENDERO in Spanish 3 May 85 p 5

[From "How the Country is Going" column]

[Text] Miguel Angel Martinez Yaryes, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], has reported that his party is having a difficult time in rural areas of the country. At the beginning of April, a PLRA member in Capiata was arrested for having hosted in his residence a meeting to set up a PLRA subcommittee. Citizen Horacio Salinas was arrested by the Capiata police and taken to police headquarters in Asuncion.

On 21 April, 16 PLRA members were arrested in San Pedro del Parana, Itapua Department, apparently while trying to set up another party subcommittee. Although 14 of them were later released, brothers Pedro and Bernardo Sanabria remain in jail. It is worth pointing out that the state of siege is not in effect in either of these two villages and that the arrest of these people can only be described as unfair, illegal, and a violation of the most essential human rights, including the rights to meet and to join a legally recognized association.

How much longer will the ruling party enjoy all the protection and advantages necessary for its political campaigning while the opposition parties have to cope with such outrages and harassment?

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ON STRIKE AGAIN

PY080310 Paris AFP in Spanish 2131 GMT 7 May 85

[Text] Asuncion, 7 May (AFP) -- Two hundred Paraguayan workers who are building the bridge on the Paraguay River, which will unite the eastern and western regions of the country, have declared a strike to demand payment of their salaries.

The bridge, located 400 km north of Asuncion, is being built under the management of the Spanish Entrecanales y Tavora Company, which promised to pay the workers by 11 May. But the workers decided to leave the worksite and walk to the city of Concepcion (6 km to the north), refusing to accept transportation provided by the company.

This is the second strike that the company has confronted this year but its manager, Teodoro Garcia, declined to comment to AFP on this problem.